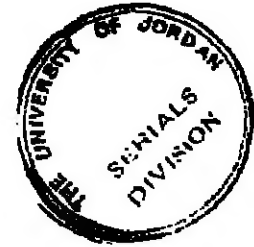


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THE TIMES

No 64,043

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 1991

40p

Poll puts Labour 10 points ahead

Major defends Euro policy as pressure grows

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major, under increasing pressure from Conservative right-wingers, yesterday insisted that British policy on Europe had not changed. The prime minister, criticised in an internal memo of the anti-federalist Bruges Group for being "frightened" to use the veto, heartened Tory Eurosceptics by saying: "The economic case for monetary union has not been made."

The Bruges Group attack came as the Conservatives slipped to their lowest position in the polls since Margaret Thatcher's departure from office. An ICM survey in *The Guardian* today shows that Labour's lead has widened to 10 per cent; the Conservatives have dropped three points in the past month. On 34 per cent, their standing is now only 1 per cent better than it was immediately after Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation last November.

Mr Major promised yesterday that he would agree to nothing that did not have to be sanctioned separately by parliament. While that led some Tory MPs sceptical of European union to say the

struggle was going their way, he also said that Britain did not have a veto. At prime minister's questions he said: "We are negotiating in the inter-governmental conferences on exactly the same basis as we first started. The position on economic and monetary union has not changed in any way."

Downing Street later made clear the government's view that there is nothing it can do to stop the other 11 going ahead with plans for EMU if they agree.

Mr Major and senior ministers believe that if they were to threaten to use the veto, invoking the rule requiring unanimity on treaty changes, the other 11 would draft a new treaty without Britain. Although they refuse to reveal their negotiating hand, they are in effect close to conceding the "if" question of whether there should be economic and monetary union if the other 11 insist. They are concentrating instead on the "when" question of British participation, a position not far from the compromise suggested by Jacques Delors, the Commission president, which they have publicly rejected.

Government sources said the Delors plan did not have to be considered until they saw the shape of a treaty at Maastricht, The Netherlands, in December, a hint that the prime minister is thinking in terms of a 1992 election. Senior ministers remain confident that they can negotiate a deal which, by its insistence on convergence of European economies as the trigger for further moves, will reduce any parliamentary revolt to manageable proportions.

Downing Street insisted that there had been no backpedalling, in spite of claims by European commissioners and finance ministers that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had on Monday softened Britain's approach by showing a willingness to discuss details of monetary mechanisms and

the operation of a European central bank.

The Bruges Group, in a leaked memo sent only to its academic members and not to MP sympathisers, demanded that the veto should be used. It highlighted Tory turmoil over Europe and led to protests to the whips from pro-European Tory MPs who are tired of holding their tongues. There were renewed calls that Margaret Thatcher should resign her presidency of the group.

The memo said that refusal by the government to veto plans for a single currency would "accelerate a serious split within the Tory party" and called for an "orchestrated campaign" to force Mr Major's hand if necessary. It said: "We know that the prime minister is opposed to EMU, but frightened to use his veto and inclined towards compromise. By adopting a very clear policy in favour of the veto, the Bruges Group might either assist the prime minister in making up his mind or actually force his hand in our favour."

Patrick Robertson, the group's secretary, said the seemingly critical passages should not be taken out of context. "I regret it has entered the public domain."



Fourth in line: the Princess of Wales managing only fourth place in a keenly contested mothers' race in which she came second last year. Her younger son, Prince Harry, won a respite for coming third in the novelty sack race at Wetherby School's sports day at Richmond, southwest London

Lamont becomes pit bull victim

Westminster's whips pushed the Chancellor into a political trap in Luxembourg, reports George Brock

Norman Lamont has become the latest victim of the pit bull terrier. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer scuttled out of a meeting of European finance ministers in Luxembourg early on Monday evening to reach the Commons dog vote in good time, his continental counterparts were sitting down with the media to put their spin on the day's meeting. They had spent most of their time wrestling with cross-border excise checks on diesel fuel, drink and cigarettes; they had spent a mere hour on monetary union.

A correspondent for *Le Monde* asked Pierre Bergeyov, the avuncular French finance minister, whether Mr Lamont had accepted the "Delors compromise", by which Britain would be allowed to elect a new parliament before signing a monetary union treaty in exchange for agreeing not to block other countries wishing to move faster. Mr Lamont had just done so, M Bergeyov replied.

Council tax unworkable Audit Commission says

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government's new council tax is unworkable in its proposed form and will prove as great a failure as the poll tax if ministers do not amend their plans, the Audit Commission said yesterday.

Launching a fierce attack on government policy, the commission called for significant changes in the plans for the reform of local government finance, including the return of council control over business rates. The commission was set up in 1982 to audit local authority and health service accounts.

The commission said that to introduce the council tax in its present form the government would have to impose universal capping of council budgets and take functions away from local government altogether. The government made it clear last night, however, that the new tax would not be forced up by excessive town hall spending. Michael Portillo, local government minister, said he would not let history repeat itself with councils using the introduction of a new tax to spend more.

The commission stopped short of advocating the abandonment of the new tax but said changes to the plans must be considered now to avoid a breakdown "in the long term". Although the government's two-year timetable for the introduction of the council tax was half that allowed for the poll tax it must be adhered to. Delaying introduction would cost the taxpayer £800 million a year.

Howard Davies, the commission's controller, said in a speech to local government and health service accountants at Bournemouth that the new tax would reduce rather than enhance public accountability. It would raise only 14 per cent of local authority spending, against the 57 per cent of expenditure raised locally under the old rating system. At that level it would provide no check on the "effective use of resources".

Mr Davies said that it was vital that a greater proportion of local government expenditure was raised locally to increase accountability. Returning control over business rate levels to councils would help that process.

Bank puts brake on rates cut

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England dashed hopes of a cut in interest rates this week, although prices rose less at the factory gates than expected, suggesting that inflation is coming under control.

John Major welcomed the May figures, which showed the annual rate of inflation falling to 6 per cent from 6.2 per cent in April. The prime minister told parliament that the government was "well on target" to meet its forecast of 4 per cent inflation by the end of the year.

But the Bank sent the money markets a signal that base rates would not be cut until the middle of next week at the earliest. Officials acknowledged that sterling's recent weakness in the foreign exchanges was again becoming a cause for concern.

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0.4 of a percentage point in May, to stand 6 per cent above its level a year earlier.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

BOMB DOCTORS
A sense of humour helps, but being gung-ho does not. Alexandra King on the men who know what makes bombs tick Page 12

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Faraday lacked government money to spend on science, an irony lost on Labour at its policy launch yesterday Page 14

MEGA TOSCA
Producer Elaine Fadness talks to Richard Morrison about the big sets, big cast. Tosca which is coming to Earls Court soon Page 13

Ryzhkov makes late bid to stop Yeltsin

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, Boris Yeltsin's chief rival for the presidency of the Russian Federation, pulled out all the stops in a last day of campaigning yesterday, to prevent an outright Yeltsin victory in today's election. He continued campaigning despite controversy about whether it was permitted on the eve of poll.

Mr Ryzhkov, who was prime minister of the Soviet Union until his heart attack last December, has presented himself as the political alternative to Mr Yeltsin. He is advocating a slow transition to a market economy to protect the interests of the less well off, and has also opposed President Gorbachev's requests for Western money, arguing that the Soviet Union should help itself.

With his running mate, General Boris Gromov, Mr Ryzhkov has the support of the conservative Russian Communist Party and much of the official media, including Soviet Central Television. Last night the former prime minister featured in a combative television documentary, defending his political record.

He rebutted the allegations heard most frequently during the campaign: that he was a weak prime minister, "ruined" the economy, fabricated his heart attack and was too weak to bear the burden of office.

However, the latest "poll of polls" from different Soviet research institutes gives Mr Yeltsin 61 per cent of the vote.

BR considers guilty plea over Clapham

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail last night told *The Times* that it was considering pleading guilty at the Central Criminal Court on Friday to two charges of violating the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act arising out of the train crash at Clapham Junction in December 1988 in which 35 people died.

The prosecution is by HM Railway Inspectorate, which became a part of the Health and Safety Executive last year. The two charges allege that the British Railways Board

"failed to ensure the safety of employees at work... by providing an effective signalling system", and that British Rail "failed to ensure that persons who were passengers on the railway were not exposed to risks to their safety". If found guilty, British Rail would face an unlimited fine.

A charge of corporate manslaughter against British Rail was dropped in May, last year, after the Crown Prosecution Service decided that there was insufficient evidence.

DPP to appeal

The DPP is to appeal against a magistrate's decision to dismiss conspiracy charges made against three detectives in the Guildford Four case... Page 2

Alibi claim

The boy friend of a television actress tried to use her as an alibi after strangling the two women he lived with, a court was told yesterday... Page 3

Warning to Iraq

Britain said that any Iraqi attack against Shia Muslim refugees would provide the UN with a further reason not to lift sanctions... Page 7

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Saved for the nation: Dad's semi at No 7

By JOHN YOUNG



William Straw: poignant shrine to his parents

THE National Trust, generally associated with the preservation of stately homes and gardens, has acquired its first "semi". No 7 Blyth Grove, Workson, Nottinghamshire, built in 1907, has been added to the trust's catalogue of historic buildings to be preserved for posterity. From 1993 it will be open for guided tours.

Historic might perhaps be overdoing it. But it is, to use a somewhat overworked term, a "time capsule", a working-class house unchanged since the Thirties, right down to a 1932 calendar hanging in the front room. It contains not a single trace of the past 60 years.

The house and nearly £1,500,000 in cash, stocks, shares and properties were left to the trust by William Straw, who died last year at the age of 93. With his brother, Walter, who died in 1976, he

had maintained what Alex Youell, the trust's regional public affairs manager, describes as "a poignant shrine to their parents".

Mr Straw's father was a grocer and seed merchant with a shop in the market square. When he, his wife Florence and their two sons moved in 1923 to the house in Blyth Grove, with its view over Clumber Park, it marked a rise in his social status.

Both William, born in 1898, and Walter, a year younger, received good educations and became teachers in local schools. William subsequently became a lecturer in English history at King's College, London. Neither married and, after the deaths of their father in 1932 and their mother in 1939 they returned to live in the house.

Walter gave up teaching to run the family business, while William did the

cooking, cleaning and gardening. They never acquired a radio, television, car or telephone.

After his brother died William continued to live at No 7 until he was admitted to hospital in 1983, since when the house has been empty. He is remembered as reclusive and somewhat misanthropic, and was a notable hoarder. Every drawer in the house is said to be crammed with account books, letters and diaries, some of them going back to the 18th century.

Although the house is too small to allow unrestricted access, it will be opened to small guided parties, after the completion of an inventory, conservation work and minor repairs. A curator will live at No 5, which was also left to the trust by Mr Straw.

"When we were notified of the very large legacy we had no idea that the

Continued on page 20, col 1

THE RUSSIAN SUMMER SHOW

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actress's
strangled
classmates,



Today's announcement will also spell out how the extra 200

Those on full shifts will work a 56-hour average week. Those on part shifts, night or day, will work 60 hours a week. Those on rotas, with some on call time, will as at present work an average 72-hour week. Maximum continuous working will be 12 hours for those on full shifts, 14 to 16 hours for

"To say we are undermining the thing is so untrue it isn't fair," said Professor Turner-Warwick, who is chairman of the conference of royal medical colleges. "We have

She was reluctant to put a deadline on when doctors working in less onerous posts should have their hours reduced. "If you have a very light workload and the hours are reduced, then you don't get the experience of the less common

their own working hours. Dr Angela Thomas, deputy chairman of the juniors' committee, said: "It is disappointing, but our main aim is to get the hours down. We now have a final date and that is quite an achievement."

Comparable figures for strokes would fall from 13 for men and 12 for women to 9 and 10. The government's targets are the same for men and 8 per 10,000, for women.

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

The three men were charged after an investigation into the Guildford Four case by Avon and Somerset police which resulted in the release of the four in October 1989. They were freed after 15 years in jail by the Appeal Court when the Crown announced evidence had emerged of alleged malpractice by Surrey officers.

The agreement specifies that from next year hospitals should have a common waiting list based on clinical priority for urgent and seriously ill patients, and for highly specialised diagnosis and treatment. Non-urgent cases could be allowed to jump queues even where no spare capacity existed, according to the guidance. That is unlikely in practice because it would be difficult without lengthening waiting times.

T T Tsui, a tourist from Hong Kong, went to the V&A to see the Chinese porcelain but found the oriental gallery temporarily closed because of spending cuts. Mr Tsui said: "They took me into it anyway, just because I said I particularly wanted to see it. I was deeply impressed by the museum and by the exhibits. "That visit inspired me to start my own collection. Now I have my own museum in



By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Mr Clarke praised Lincolnshire for embracing grant-maintained schools and widening parental choice. Skegness grammar was the first school in the country to opt out two years ago, and

Mr Wright, who expects the school to gain up to £80,000 a year from opting out, hopes to employ more teachers, expand the library and buy extra computers. Bourne is already over-subscribed, but will only expand if its change of status brings extra capital funding.

By SHEILA GINN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

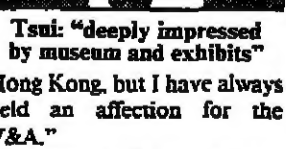
New law too weak, victim says

After the 12 hours of Commons debates the bill, making illegal the ownership of fighting dogs from November 30 except if they are neutered, muzzled, insured and registered, now moves to the Lords.

[illegible]

A MAN whose nose was bitten off and his face disfigured in an attack by two pit bull terriers yesterday condemned the government's dangerous dogs legislation as too lenient when he spoke for the first time since being savaged.

By SIMON TAIT
ITS CORRESPONDENT



"That visit inspired me to start my own collection. Now I have my own museum in

Tonight the Prince of Wales will open the T T Tsui gallery

The gallery departs from traditional methods of display and uses a thematic approach to show how objects were used. Items date back to 3000 BC and represent one of the most comprehensive collections in the West. Mr Tsui's gift is also helping the museum to launch a community project to encourage the study of Chinese art.

Leading article, page 15

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More to discover

مكتبة

Alleged murderer 'drove through London traffic with bodies in passenger seats'

Actress's boy friend strangled women flatmates, court told

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE boy friend of a former television soap opera actress strangled the two women he lived with and dumped their bodies in a car after arranging an alibi, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Michael Shorey allegedly spent the night at the home of Sandy Ratcliff, who played the part of Sue Osman in the BBC's *EastEnders*, before driving through the early-morning traffic with the victims' bodies in the passenger seats.

Mr Shorey, aged 35, abandoned the car in a north London street, where the bodies were discovered later that

morning, the court was told. But a motorist who saw the car being driven had noticed that the passengers were slumped in their seats and alerted the police after learning about the killings.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that Mr Shorey had strangled the women on the Saturday night and stored the bodies behind the door of the flat he shared with the women until the following Monday. Detectives later recovered a roll of blood-stained carpet that Mr Shorey had tried to conceal at the home of a friend.

Mr Shorey denied murder-

ing his former girlfriend, Elaine Forsyth, aged 31, and her flatmate Patricia Morrison, aged 28, who owned the gold Toyota Corolla car in which their bodies were found on July 23.

Mr Nutting said that police arrested Mr Shorey, an accounts clerk, on August 1 last year, a week after the bodies were found. He said that the relationship between Mr Shorey and Miss Forsyth had cooled and that he was due to move out of the basement flat in Grenville Road, Upper Holloway, north London.

A post mortem examination had shown that the two women had been strangled. An examination of the flat showed splashes of human blood on the corridor walls, inside the front door on a blue fitted carpet and also on a roll of brown carpet that Mr Nutting said had been recovered from a friend of Mr Shorey.

A curtain tie that matched ligature marks round Miss Forsyth's neck was also found at the flat, and a metal and leather handbag strap was discovered in the car round the neck of Miss Morrison.

Mr Nutting told the jury: "The Crown says the defendant murdered Elaine Forsyth on the Saturday night at the flat possibly as a result of a quarrel over their relationship and later killed Patricia Morrison upon her return to the flat, either because she discovered what he had done or to prevent her doing so."

In the early hours of Monday morning, having returned from Miss Ratcliff's flat, Shorey carried the bodies up the basement steps to Miss Morrison's car, Mr Nutting said. He parked the car outside a small factory called Angel Trimmings where an employee later discovered the bodies.

Elaine Forsyth, who worked for a firm of property developers, had met the defendant some years ago and at one time they were engaged to be



Strangled: Elaine Forsyth (left) and Patricia Morrison, and (below) the flat in Grenville Road, Holloway, north London, which they shared with the man who is accused of their murder, Michael Shorey



married. But friends detected the strains in their relationship, night of the killings a neighbour said, and while he heard a woman screaming she began to go out with him. Mr Shorey had later tried someone from work, he em-to wash the blue-fitted carpet barked on an affair with the of blood and saliva before taking a taxi to the home of

Miss Ratcliff, where he wanted to establish an alibi. Shortly after 7.30am on the Monday a Mr Nolan was driving to work in slow, heavy traffic when he noticed a small car travelling in the opposite

direction. Mr Nutting said: "He noticed there were three occupants, a coloured male driver and two white females, one in the back and one in the front passenger seat."

The case continues today.

Guinness lawyer waives extradition

By DAVID YOUNG

THOMAS J Ward, the American corporate lawyer alleged to have received an illegal \$8.3 million payment from Guinness in connection with its 1986 takeover of Distillers, has agreed to waive extradition and come to London to face any charges.

The Serious Fraud Office said yesterday that it could not disclose when Mr Ward would appear in court or what charges he would face. However, the original extradition hearing involved four charges under the 1969 Theft Act and involved the removal of £3.2 million from a Guinness account at the National Westminster Bank in May 1986.

Mr Ward, an American citizen who was then a legal adviser to Guinness and a member of its board, contends that the payment he received from Guinness was a lawful "success fee".

The Serious Fraud Office has reached an agreement with Mr Ward under which it will halt extradition proceedings. Mr Ward will continue to be on bail from a Washington court and will be able to travel to London to answer any charges and to return to the US to consult with lawyers.

Mr Ward, a partner in a Washington law firm, was a confidant of the former Guinness chairman and chief executive officer, Ernest Saunders. Mr Saunders and three others were convicted in 1990 of fraud and other charges in connection with boosting the Guinness share price in the takeover battle.

Boy's abductor gets 11 years

By DAVID YOUNG

A "SOLITARY and childish man" was jailed for 11 years yesterday after a jury found him guilty of abducting four-year-old Simon Jones. At the beginning of the trial at St Albans crown court on Monday, Peter May had pleaded guilty to holding Simon against his will for eight weeks.

Judge Colston, QC, jailed May, who was unemployed, for 11 years for false imprisonment and five years for abduction. He said: "It is difficult to think of anything more wicked than to take a child of this age and keep him in the way that you did for eight weeks."

May had told police the boy had not asked for his mother and had not been distressed. "On several occasions you talked of monsters and he cried. I make it plain I reject that. It's an explanation I find wholly incredible."

"I am satisfied that boy was kept quiet in that room because of the way in which you exercised your influence on him and so terrified him so

as he did not dare to scream." May surrounded himself with children in Hemel Hempstead where he was brought up. He ran football teams, organised trips and parties and could relate better to youngsters than to adults. A loner, he read comics and watched children's television. The jury was told that May often mentioned the search to Simon and compared it to a film he had seen about a child abductor who kept a boy for years.

Simon vanished on Sunday, September 23, after playing with his older brothers John Paul, eight, and Robert, seven, in Gadebridge Park near his home in Hemel Hempstead. He was found 56 days later on November 18 in a men's hostel in George Street, 450 yards from the headquarters of the police hunt.

Officers had visited the hostel three times but failed to find the boy. Assistant Chief Constable David Cansdale of Hertfordshire police said: "I do not know what we could have done differently."

Eating survey shows that regions account for taste

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

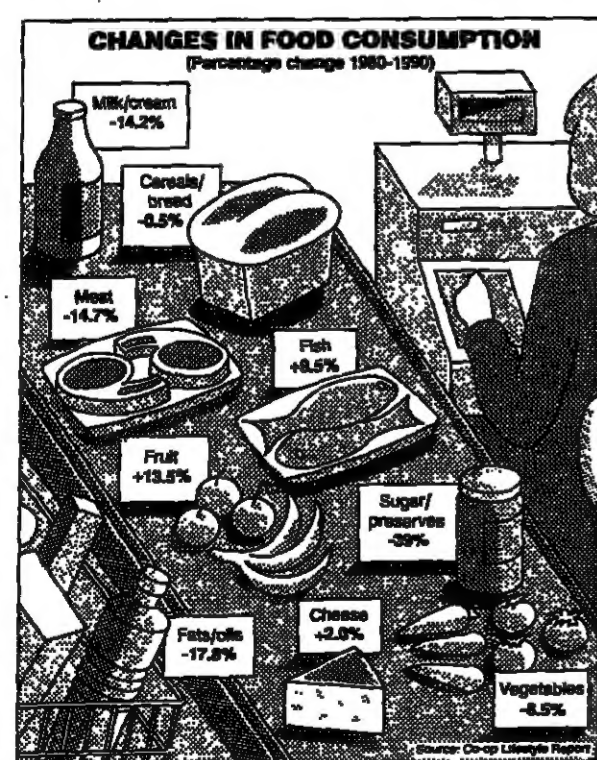
BUSINESS is slow for Scottish fishmongers, Welsh cheese shops and Home Counties bakers, but brisk for Glaswegian butchers, Cardiff confectioners and fruiters in Finchley.

A national survey of eating habits published yesterday shows that although Britain is moving slowly towards a healthier diet, there are big regional differences in who eats what.

Meat consumption nationally fell by almost 15 per cent during the Eighties, and fats and oils fell by almost 18 per cent, but 9.5 per cent more fish and 13.5 per cent more fruit was eaten. Scots like fish less than the people of England, Wales or Northern Ireland do, but eat more than the national average of meat, potatoes and bread.

Nobody eats less cheese than the Welsh, who like lots of sugar, preserves and vegetables. Bread is bottom of the list in London, the Home Counties and southeast England, but fruit consumption is highest there.

The survey, by the Co-op, Britain's largest retail group, shows that while northerners eat more fish and vegetables



than those in other regions, they also eat more than the average of meat and bread.

People in the North-West eat the least fruit, while those in the South-West are fond of milk, cream and cheese.

Midlanders skip on fruit, bread and cereals but like milk, fish and vegetables. The survey says women have difficulty in persuading their men and children to eat more healthily.

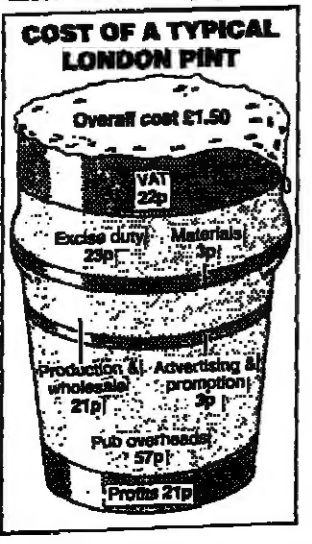
Party pledges beer enquiry

By TIM JONES

THE Labour party last night renewed its pledge to mount a thorough enquiry into the brewing industry, which it believes is becoming a monopolistic cartel working against the interests of beer-drinkers. The promise of an investigation if Labour wins the next general election came from Doug Henderson, a party trade and industry spokesman, as some landlords speculated that the day of the £2 pint in London was not far away.

Mr Henderson said that an increasing number of takeovers in the industry was reducing choice and "pushing up prices relentlessly". He made his remarks following the disclosure that Courage to increase the price of beer supplied to public houses by about 5p a

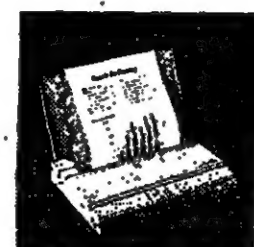
pint. This will push the price of a pint of beer in London to about £1.60, which is 64p more than MPs pay for a



pint of Federation bitter in House of Commons bars. Mr Henderson said: "Retail prices increased by 142 per cent from March 1979 to March 1991, while beer prices rose by 222 per cent." He added: "The increases cannot be claimed on tax. Total tax as a percentage of price was 40.4 per cent in 1981, but only 33.4 per cent after the 1991 budget."

The £2 pint, common in night-clubs in London and the South-East, may soon become a normal public house price, according to a survey of 525 landlords by *The Publican* magazine.

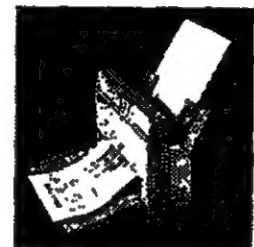
Mr Henderson said the industry was in a mess. "The next Labour government will want to stop the rot," he said. "We are committed to a fresh-start review."



LapTop

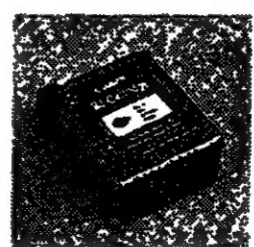
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By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Ford, which last month declared its first pre-tax loss in

Though Ford has made no forecasts about employment levels in Britain, union leaders are convinced that there will be job losses. Accordingly, they agreed this week to put to the company detailed plans for a job security package, based on practice in Germany and the US, which will greatly increase redundancy and

Also under scrutiny is the protected employment programme — guarding against lay-offs for such reasons as technological change, or changing of the sourcing of parts — and supplemental

Last November, 88 staff lost their jobs and more than 40 more went last month. The company, based in Wakefield, has blamed the building recession for the closure.

Britain's sick leave

The four-lane bridge will open to traffic in October. Instead of all drivers on the M25 having to pass through the frequently congested twin Dartford tunnels, drivers heading southbound will now use the bridge. Northbound M25 traffic will use the tunnels so there will be four lanes in each direction over or under the Thames.



By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

British Airways has been forced to cancel seven of its ten flights to Paris and Air France expects to operate no more than four of its ten flights from Heathrow. Only one flight will operate from London City airport and Dan

Until recently Paris and Farnborough were the only two important air shows in the world, taking place on alternate years and acting as the focal point for a fast expanding and diverse industry. Their success, however, encouraged others to launch rivals and now Singapore, Dubai and, from next year, Berlin, are trying to attract

Lady Birdwood faces committal proceedings at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, on summonses under the 1986 Public Order Act relating to possession or distribution of four "threatening, abusive or insulting" leaflets. The case continues.

Andrew Gira Singh, aged 30, a parcel handler, of Henley Green, Coventry, was remanded in custody by Coventry magistrates yesterday accused of four rapes and an attempt to rape. The charges, all relating to Coventry, include the rape of a girl aged 14 almost two weeks ago. The earliest relates to July 1989.

The trial of Stuart Hutchinson, aged 44, a former Tees-side oil engineer, accused of murdering his wife, Alice, on the Costa del Sol two years ago was adjourned in Malaga yesterday until October 2 after Mr Hutchinson's daughter, Katinka, aged 16, failed to turn up as a witness.

Private William Davies, aged 19, who was fatally shot by the IRA at Lichfield railway station, Staffordshire, last June was unlawfully killed, Reginald Browning, the Mid Staffordshire coroner, recorded at an inquest yesterday.

Carol Allard, of Marnhull, Dorset, found £1,700 in cash and cheques in a bag of bananas she had bought the previous evening at a petrol station at Bruton, Somerset. The cashier, Andrew Strike, had put her purchase in a bag containing the day's takings.

Britain's oldest rugby player, Cyril Turner, has called it a day at 80. Mr Turner, who played for Fareham Heathens in Hampshire, said: "I just can't take the risk of getting injured any more."

By ALICE THOMSON

Absence through sickness costs Britain £25 billion a year, according to the Health and Safety Commission. While the commission believes that there are malingerers who will skip days to go shopping or watch cricket, it

By NICK NUTTALL

America's Federal Aviation Administration has offered Britain a second device after successful trials at Gatwick with a machine installed last summer.

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

The professor of physics at Waseda university, Tokyo, has thus helped to confirm theories proposed last year by Terence Meaden, former associate

Dr Meaden said yesterday that Professor Ohtsuki, who first visited Britain two years ago to examine the phenomenon, had told him in a letter that he fired mini-whirlwinds over plates of fine aluminium powder in his ball-lightning machine to replicate the quick-

Dr Meaden believes that the final answer to the circles' complexities might be found in the appearance of sun spots which lead to electromagnetic changes in the Earth's atmosphere and crust.

If so, the number of complicated coronal circles may fall over the coming years. Solar activity is believed to be on the point of declining from a 200-year peak.

Station 1

Review of damages law to study use of punitive awards

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POWERS for courts to award American-style punitive damages and to impose payments of awards in instalments are to be examined in a review of the law of damages.

The review, announced yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will be carried out by the Law Commission, the government's law reform body, and will focus on personal injury claims. It will also examine the principles governing damages in civil litigation generally and will look into the widely differing levels of damages, such as those awarded by juries in libel cases and those made by judges in some personal injury cases.

Both punitive damages and structured settlements, or payment of damages awards by instalments, are highly topical. There have been increasing calls by lawyers in disaster cases for courts to have power to award punitive damages as well as compensation.

Last week a teenage girl who suffered brain damage and was confined to a wheelchair after a road crash was awarded record damages of £8.9 million, to be paid as a structured settlement in monthly sums over the next 50 years.

The commission will also look at how damages are

awarded in class actions such as those now being brought over alleged addition to tranquillisers, and at whether courts should have power to make global awards of damages in such cases. Other issues to be examined are bereavement damages and awards covering medical and nursing expenses.

Lord Mackay said yesterday that the law on damages had developed on a case-by-case basis and the time had come for a more systematic approach. Structured settlements "may provide a way of ensuring that a person's needs will be fully met, for the rest of his life, however long that is, without increasing the cost to the defendant, indeed perhaps at less cost overall".

Other difficulties arose in multi-party actions, where a large group of people might have suffered harm in national disasters. Courts should have at their disposal the greatest possible variety of remedies to meet the justice of the case.

The review, which will include consultation, is expected to take two to three years. It excludes any examination of no-fault compensation.

Sir Peter Gibson, chairman of the Law Commission, said the review would include a

survey of what people did when awarded damages. "What do they do with the money? Do they blow it on a holiday? Is the money being applied for the purpose for which it was given? Will it run out too soon? These are the questions we will ask."

Michael Napier, of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, welcomed the review. He said that punitive damages should be available in certain cases. At present their use was very restricted.

Changes to the law on the way challenges are made in the courts to governmental decisions will be looked at by the Law Commission in a second review announced yesterday. The enquiry into judicial review will examine how the procedures can be brought up to date.

It will examine among other issues whether people should be barred from taking other forms of legal action; whether the tight time limits are right; and who should be able to bring an action.

Cathedral restoration work scales new heights

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

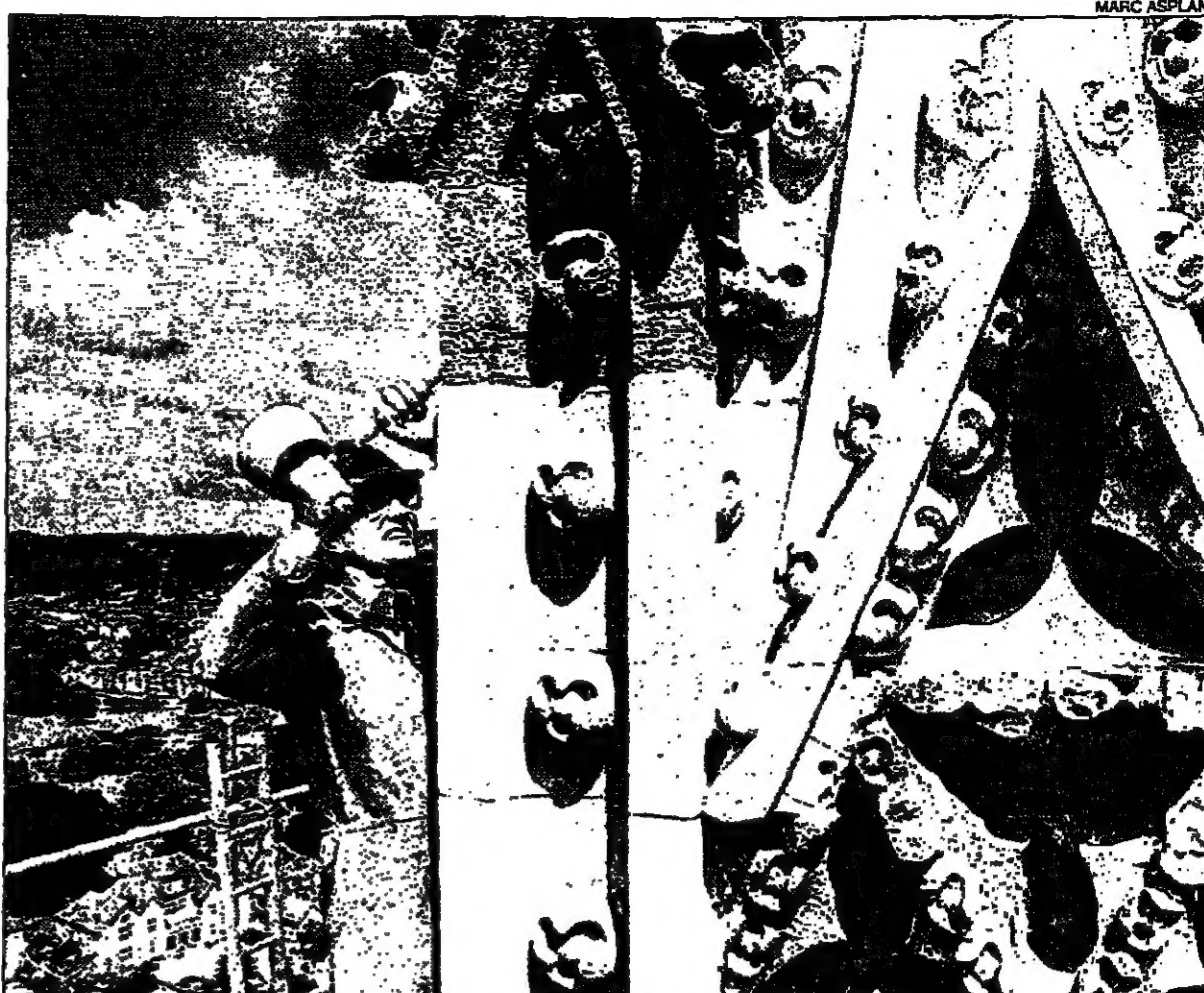
IN practical terms there has been little difference between Gordon Tucker's career and that of his predecessors seven centuries ago. He has spent all his working life restoring Salisbury cathedral, working with a mallet and chisel, the kind of tools used by in the 13th century. The new stone he works on came from the same underground quarry where the original Chalkmark limestone was mined.

Mr Tucker, aged 58, a foreman stonemason, left school at 16 and served a four-year apprenticeship.

The original half-timbered, a typical 13th century decoration, have deteriorated so badly they resemble human skulls, he says. The iron cramps, which have rusted and in places split the stone, are being replaced with stainless steel.

Mr Tucker, who heads a department of 16, including three stone masons, says: "No stone has fallen off but in places we have lifted off 400 cwt of loose stone."

He expects the restoration of the tower, spire and west front to take more than ten years. More than £5 million has been raised from donations since a £6.5 million cathedral appeal was launched in 1987.



Chip off the old spire: Gordon Tucker working 250ft from the ground on new stone at Salisbury cathedral

Assisting victims by instalment

By BILL FROST

STRUCTURED compensation awards have become increasingly popular as the legal system recognises the need to provide for victims for the rest of their lives. Such payments have dwarfed lump sum awards made over the past year.

Heidi Everett, aged 14, last week in the High Court received a record £8.9 million after suffering brain damage in a road accident that also left her confined to a wheelchair. The award will be paid in monthly instalments over 50 years. The judge said he had not hesitated over the structured settlement because it was in the family's best interests.

The settlement far outstripped the previous record for structured compensation to a road accident victim, £2.1 million for Gary Lee Grimsley, aged 15, of Leicester, who had been left brain-damaged and crippled, and will receive damages in annual instalments for the rest of his life or a minimum of 30 years.

The highest lump sum for a road accident injury victim is £1,571,282 awarded to John Lambert, aged 42, last July.

Last week, Rebecca Field, aged six, who was left brain damaged after a hospital error, was offered £1.7 million damages. Her High Court case was adjourned while a structured settlement was sought.

US firms fear jury disfavour

By SUSAN ELLICOTT

IN THE United States punitive damages began 200 years ago to penalise and deter professional negligence and fraud, excluding medical and legal malpractice.

Although courts have returned fewer than 400 such verdicts in the past 25 years, attention has focused on the upward spiral of multi-million dollar settlements.

Last year a jury in California awarded \$5.3 million to a woman car passenger who suffered a ruptured spinal disc, a broken neck and an eye injury when the vehicle was rammed in the back at 70 mph by a General Motors lorry with brake failure.

The jury argued that the sum not only compensated the victim but also would spur the American company to review the single hydraulic brake system of similar vehicles.

Despite growing complaints from businesses that the sizes of punitive damages have inflated their insurance costs, the US high court ruled earlier this year against setting a limit on awards.

Other opponents of punitive damages say that they prevent drug companies from developing new products. But legal experts and consumer groups say that the risk of heavy damages is the best way to ensure honesty in insurers, businesses and manufacturers.



Farming threat to wetland wildlife

By ALICE THOMSON

BRITISH wetlands are being drained, causing irreparable environmental damage and threatening rare wildlife, according to a report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Using the Somerset Levels and Moors as an example, the report says that local drainage bodies are continuing to lower water levels for a small number of intensive livestock and arable farmers despite pleas from conservationists.

This had caused a serious decline in breeding waders and was threatening the wintering bewick's swan, teal, lapwing, snipe and black-tailed godwit.

The National Water Authority's flood defence committees, which control drainage, are dominated by local farmers. The RSPB accuses them of ignoring conservationists' requests to manage water levels for wildlife. The Somerset flood defence committee, which has one conservationist on its board, meets on Friday to discuss the future of wildlife on the Somerset Levels. But

Roger Buffon, RSPB policy officer, is pessimistic. He said: "The area is in a perilous state but they don't look as if they're going to move an inch."

Nigel Reader, general regional manager of the NWA Wessex region, and the committee's adviser, said the committee would probably not recommend raising the water level. "We will probably designate some areas for conservation but we also have to take into account the interests of the intensive farmers," he said.

The cold weather is threatening fledglings of rare birds and is preventing some eggs from hatching, the RSPB said.

Birds that traditionally migrate from Africa, such as swifts, house martins, swallows and nightingales, are turning back at the French coast.

The RSPB is particularly concerned about the stone curlew which comes to Britain from Spain from February to October. There are only 40 to 50 breeding pairs in this country.

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Plea for couples who live together

By PETER MULLIGAN

PROPERTY

THE government was urged yesterday to protect the rights of cohabiting couples to property and possessions in the event of their relationship breaking up.

Teresa Gorman, Tory MP for Billericay, said that those living together were in a much worse position under the law than married people and she cited the cases of some who had ended with nothing. "People, particularly young women, go into these relationships starry-eyed and come out baggy-eyed and worse for wear. It is time the government considered this matter seriously and brought some sanity and guidance to the law."

She was speaking under the procedure in the Commons which allows a backbench MP to introduce a bill, with a 10-minute speech, which has



Teresa Gorman

little chance of making progress but which can send a signal to ministers.

Mrs Gorman said that almost a million couples between the ages of 18 and 40 were living together, many with children, without any formal arrangement about the property.

Similar problems were faced by friends who shared a house and elderly people who moved in with younger relatives, investing money in the property. "There is no specific body of law to protect any of these people, even if there is a contract," she said. "For historical reasons, the courts have been loathe to recognise the intention behind such agreements."

Labour to appoint a minister for science

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WITHOUT new policies for science and technology the nation will be impoverished and the economy disabled, Neil Kinnock said yesterday in launching Labour's policy statement on science.

The document, *Pushing back the Frontiers*, pledges increased public spending on science, a minister and an office for science, technology, research and statistics in the Cabinet Office, a new research council for the humanities and an office of technology assessment functioning like the National Audit Office.

The document, the most comprehensive effort to devise a new Labour party science policy for years, was launched at a press conference at the Royal Institution yesterday as part of Labour's summer offensive against the government.

Mr Kinnock shrugged off Conservative attempts to discredit the policy in advance as "utterly unconvincing and superficial". Everybody involved in science, he said, well understood the real Tory record, and a Conservative party report defending it had been written in the hope "that everybody in Britain has lost their memory".

The Labour document promises changes in education and training, the school curriculum, and the fiscal regime to encourage research and innovation. Industrial companies will be able to claim an additional allowance of 25 per cent of any increase in research and development spending over a base year, to encourage greater spending. Government defence research will be reduced, and the laboratories involved redirected into civil work.

The research councils, which now have their allocation of money distributed to them by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, should be able to negotiate them directly with the minister, Labour says.

The document says that there should be an increase in the overall spending on civil research and development from 1.8 per cent of GDP to

RESEARCH

2.5 per cent. According to Jeremy Bray, the party's science spokesman, the bulk of that increase will be in industrial research and development paid for by industry. The fiscal incentives and "the general climate of industrial policy" would encourage firms to spend, Dr Bray said.

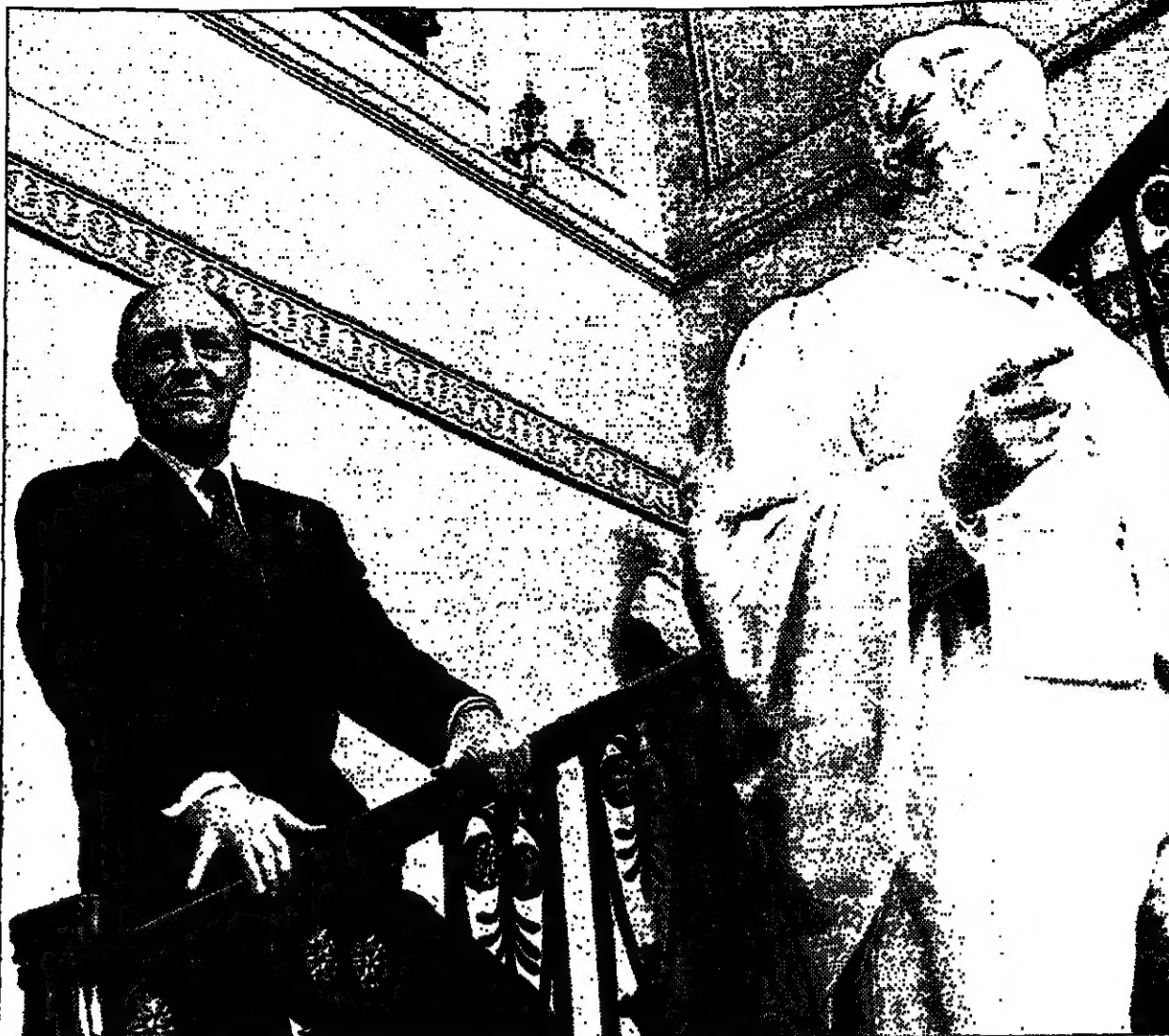
Mr Kinnock said that the policies had been developed after long contacts with the scientific community. "Without such policies it is certain that the shipwreck of British science will continue, the genius and diligence of scientists will be neglected, the nation will be intellectually and socially impoverished, the economy disabled."

The document was welcomed by the pressure group Save British Science, especially the commitment to increased resources. The group expressed doubts that a science minister in the Cabinet Office would have sufficient weight in government and recommended a minister of cabinet rank leading a department that would include much of the government's science spending.

Conservative reactions were derisive. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that it was "a lazy document, full of waffle and devoid of fresh thinking for the future development of science". Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, said that, far from eroding, the science budget had risen from £349 million in 1979 to £920 million today, a rate of growth of 22 per cent above inflation.

The Conservatives also cast doubt on Labour's proposed tax incentives for research, saying that international experience showed it to be an inefficient way of increasing research and development spending. The cost to the government would exceed the benefit of extra research by a factor of between two and five, the Conservative Research Department said.

Nigel Hawkes, page 14



Pointing the way: Neil Kinnock, introducing Labour's new science policy at the Royal Institution in London yesterday, saluted Michael Faraday as "a great creator and wealth generator"

Last 26 wages councils likely to be abolished

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBERT MORGAN

FIRM indications that the remaining wages councils covering about 2.5 million low-paid workers will be abolished were given by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, yesterday.

As the political battle over jobs intensified, Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said that claims by Mr Howard that Labour's plan for a national minimum wage would cost two million jobs were bogus and should be withdrawn.

Mr Howard had told a Tory MP earlier that "wages councils do not have a permanent place in our system". Sources suggested later that the abolition of the last 26 councils would take place in the next Parliament if the Conservatives are returned.

Mr Blair said that in making the two million estimate the government could only have

EMPLOYMENT

assumed that Labour would immediately introduce the minimum wage at two thirds of average male earnings, and that everyone in the country would get a 25 per cent wage increase because of the rise going to the low paid as a result of the minimum wage.

The first assumption was false because the minimum wage was to be set at half, not two thirds. The second assumption raised the wages bill by 17 per cent. The second had no conceivable basis in reality and was absurd, for it would mean that doctors, lawyers, accountants, managing directors and all skilled workers would get a 25 per cent pay increase on top of their normal pay rise.

Labour's minimum wage plan is emerging as one of the Conservatives' main targets in the run-up to the general election. Last night, Mr Blair challenged Mr Howard to confirm that he had used those assumptions. They were false or absurdly unrealistic and not backed by the evidence Mr Howard claimed had supported them.

In the Commons yesterday,

Mr Howard maintained that Labour policies would destroy jobs on a devastating scale. He told MPs at question time that, although in April unemployment was running at 2,175,000, seasonally adjusted, there were now 1.3 million more jobs than in 1979 and three million more jobs than in 1983. Job prospects would improve again when economic growth resumed.

He said that if Labour had been in power for the past few years, unemployment would be much higher than it was today and would be higher in the future if Labour ever regained office.

In later exchanges, Mr Howard cited Barbara Castle, the former Labour cabinet minister, as cautioning in 1969 against a national minimum wage and an estimate by the Fabian Society that the policy could destroy 880,000 jobs.

Labour leaders should abandon their jobs destruction package, he said. Mr Howard added that it was a fabrication on Labour's part to say that a statutory minimum wage policy existed throughout Europe. It existed only in four countries and was honoured more in the breach than in the observation.

Water bill 'losers'

A LIST of likely "winners and losers" compiled by the Liberal Democrats claims that people living in the north of England may have to pay more for water if water companies switch to a charging system based on the council tax (Roger Wood writes).

The basis for water charges has to be changed by the year 2000, and the director general of water services is considering the options. But figures prepared by the Liberal Democrats show customers in the northwest region facing a possible £57 a year increase if the middle band of the council tax was used to calculate water bills. Other losers would be in the Yorkshire, Northumbria and Anglia regions. Customers in the southwest, Thames and Wessex regions would benefit, particularly those in high value homes because charges are now based on rateable value.

Michael Curt (Ribble Valley Lib Dem) said yesterday: "Using the council tax as a basis for water bills is unfair and unworkable."

The government believes that providing greater flexibility over pay and conditions would allow chief executives to introduce performance-related pay.

The Treasury said: "If the agencies have in place robust management and financial structures, there is no reason why they should not have delegated to them greater powers on pay."

Agency pay may be freed

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TREASURY

PAY arrangements for tens of thousands of civil servants employed in government agencies may be removed from Treasury control under plans being considered by ministers.

Ministers want to begin discussions with officials at the Treasury this summer with the aim of giving many of the semi-autonomous agencies created under the Next Steps programme power to determine their own pay rates and conditions of service from next year.

Many chief executives, particularly those who have been appointed from the private sector, argue that the centralised pay bargaining system under which the Treasury negotiates annually with the civil service trade unions should be broken down to provide greater flexibility in salaries. Although the Treasury has a key responsibility for trends in public service costs, ministers believe that chief executives of agencies could be provided with an overall amount of cash that they could use to determine the pay of their staff. However, if the government does press ahead with its plans, it would mean breaking agreements reached during the past three years under which pay rates applied throughout agencies and the central Whitehall departments.

The government believes that providing greater flexibility over pay and conditions would allow chief executives to introduce performance-related pay.

The Treasury said: "If the agencies have in place robust management and financial structures, there is no reason why they should not have delegated to them greater powers on pay."

Rating review body is set up

The government is to set up a small expert committee, under the chairmanship of Derek Wood, QC, to review the rating of plant and machinery and report by the end of next year, Michael Portillo, local government minister, announced.

He said that much of the law had become outdated as a result of technological change. The committee is being asked to make recommendations as to the principles that should be prescribed to comprise the extent of ratable property, having regard to the financial and other considerations involved and with a view to removing inconsistencies and harmonising the law and practice in all parts of the country.

Pension tax

Latest estimates are that about 7.3 million individuals over 65 will pay no income tax this year; 2.6 million will pay tax at the basic rate and 150,000 will pay at the higher rate. Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

Slot machines

The Home Office has ruled out further legislative controls on fruit machines, Peter Lloyd, under secretary, made clear in a written reply. Research showed that few young people were at risk of becoming dependent on amusement machines and there was no clear evidence of any association with delinquency.

New peers



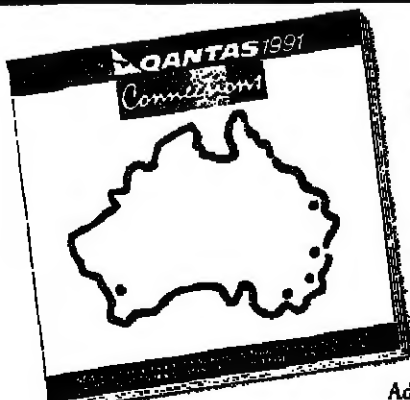
Mark Schreiber (above), editorial consultant to *The Economist* and former member of the Conservative research department, was introduced in the House of Lords as Lord Marlborough. Jean Denton, deputy chairman of the Black Country development corporation and a former rally driver, was introduced as Lady Denton of Wakefield.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment. Local government finance and valuation bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debate on defence forces.

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Old campaign

Japan firms invade South-East Asia as wartime scars heal



Nakayama: reshaping Japan's foreign policy

TARO Nakayama, Japan's foreign minister, is this week making the first official visit to Vietnam by a Japanese cabinet member since the country's unification in 1976. The trip is being billed here as one of a series of Japanese initiatives to promote the Cambodian peace process.

But some Japanese suggest Mr Nakayama has a broader strategic purpose: Japan's own developing brand of foreign policy. Vietnam is just one example of Tokyo's bold strategy of postwar re-engagement in South-East Asia. The evidence is etched in neon on the skylines and highways of Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Manila and Bangkok, where the advertising signs proclaim the presence of Japanese companies.

Japanese businessmen have designs on Vietnam as a future export target. With a population of 66 million, Vietnam beckons as South-East Asia's second largest consumer market. More than 13,000 Japanese businessmen are expected to visit Vietnam this year. Almost 20 Japanese trading companies have representation in Vietnam and bilateral trade more than doubled from £208 million in 1988 to £483 million in 1990. Japan is likely to replace the Soviet Union later this year as Vietnam's largest trading partner.

For the last five years, Japanese manufacturers have been moving their factories into Asia at a rapid pace propelled by three factors: the near doubling of the yen's value, Japan's worsening labour shortage and the promise of the world's fastest-growing consumer

Economic necessity is forcing wary neighbours to accept a growing Japanese presence and to ponder a trade bloc led by Japan, Joanna Pitman writes from Tokyo

markets. The figures speak for themselves. A new Japanese factory opens almost every other day in Malaysia and every three days in Thailand, according to one Japanese official.

There are roughly 2,000 Japanese companies already operating in Thailand, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation. Ministry of finance statistics show that by the end of 1990, approximately 2,000 Japanese companies were represented in Singapore, 1,500 in Indonesia, 1,200 in Malaysia, 1,900 in Taiwan, 1,300 in South Korea and 700 in the Philippines. Japanese politicians, not gen-

erally given to overseas travel, have also been making a point of touring Asian countries more frequently in recent months. The prime minister, six of his cabinet ministers and six other senior politicians from the ruling Liberal Democratic party, including the former prime ministers, Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, have all made trips to Asian countries this year and discussed issues concerning regional economic balance.

Kiichi Miyazawa, a senior Liberal Democratic party politician and a candidate for prime minister, proposed last week in Bangkok that Tokyo should lead a United States of Asia-style economic bloc comprising the Association of South-East Asian Nations, South Korea and Japan. "The Asian economic zone will outdo the North American economic zone and European economic zone at the beginning of

the 21st century and assume a very crucial role in the world," he said during a weeklong trip to Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia.

Proposals to create Asia-wide political-economic zones have been around for decades, but have foundered for a variety of reasons — disparate political systems, economic structures, cultures and religions, different strategic objectives and a range of historical suspicions and animosities. Yet growing evidence of the formation of strategic blocs in Europe and North America has prompted more urgent Asian appraisals of the changing international economic order and suggestions from some Asian nations that Japan should take the lead in shaping Asia's response.

In March, China called for Sino-Japanese collaboration in establishing an East Asian eco-

nomic cooperation sphere. In December last year, the Malaysian prime minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, proposed that Japan should lead a new Asian economic body, named the East Asia Economic Group, which would compete with Europe and North America.

Even if economic necessity prompts Asian nations to put aside unpleasant memories of Japanese wartime activities and embrace a delicately crafted Japanese leadership, there is one obstacle that is likely to impede for the time being the development of a United States of Asia. That is the disapproval of the United States itself, which would not like to be excluded from the world's most attractive consumer market.

Japanese sensitivities will not allow foreign economic planners to broach America's trust by locking it out of Asia.

Britain threatens Iraq amid fears for Shia refugees

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND IAN MURRAY
IN BOMBAY

AMID growing fears of an imminent Iraqi offensive against Shia Muslim refugees trapped in marshes in the south of the country, Britain said yesterday that any attack would provide the United Nations with a further reason not to lift sanctions.

Germany also announced that it was to call on the EC and the UN to help stop the "unimaginable cruelty" it believed was being used by Baghdad against the Shias.

Addressing the UN Security Council's first 60-day review of the UN embargo, Sir David Hannay, the British ambassador, said that Britain was "deeply distressed" by reports of a possible Iraqi offensive against up to 700,000 Shias who took refuge in the marshes after their uprising failed at the end of the Gulf war. "We would view any



such action with the utmost concern and as a direct challenge to the security council's request to Iraq in resolution 688 that it cease repression of its people," Sir David said.

Tehran Radio yesterday reported that Iraqi planes had begun bombing the Shias in the marshes, and Iran sent an official letter to the UN secretary-general warning that Iraq was planning a "general mopping-up operation". Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's UN envoy, wrote that the Iraqi attack could kill thousands and force several hundred

thousand more across the border into Iran. However, UN officials in Iran said that Shia refugees have been "tricking back" to their homeland in the south, in spite of the reports of an imminent Iraqi attack.

Western diplomats said that, in the circumstances, there was no prospect of the security council lifting any sanctions against Iraq. "The sanctions regime will remain the same," one said.

The UN ceasefire resolution calls on the security council to conduct regular reviews of the sanctions against Iraq in light of Baghdad's compliance with the ceasefire terms and the "policies and practices of the government of Iraq". The embargo on food and other essential supplies has already been greatly relaxed and sanctions on oil exports will be automatically lifted when the security council decides that Iraq has completed the destruction of all its unconventional weapons.

Both John Major and President Bush have committed themselves to maintain sanctions on non-essential imports into Iraq until President Saddam Hussein leaves power, exercising Britain's and the United States' veto power on the security council. Britain has presented the security council with long lists of reasons to oppose any relaxation of sanctions.

Besides the possible military action against the Shias, Sir David also referred to the plight of the Kurds in northern Iraq, calling Baghdad's record in both cases "reprehensible". "The rulers of Iraq have inflicted massive damage and suffering on their own people ever since the invasion of Kuwait last August," he said. "And unfortunately they are continuing to do so."

● Kuwait: Oil production has resumed for the first time since the state's oil wells were set ablaze and its industry devastated by the Iraqis in the Gulf war. An official of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said the company had begun pumping and storing 25,000 barrels of crude a day. (Reuters)

Husain suffers heart trouble

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

KING Hussein, the longest-reigning monarch in the Middle East, was taken to hospital in Amman on Monday night suffering from an irregular heartbeat. The announcement by Petra, the Jordanian news agency, was delayed until yesterday.

Petra said that the king's condition was "satisfactory" and he is recovering. A palace spokesman claimed later that the Jordanian leader, aged 56, was in "excellent condition" and there would not be any "lasting effects" from the ailment.

The news sent a tremor through the region because the king, who has ruled since 1952, is credited with being the main force holding together the Hashemite kingdom, 60 per cent of whose population is Palestinian. The next in line is Crown Prince

Hassan, his Oxford-educated youngest brother, followed by his teenage son Ali.

King Hussein has had periodic checks in Jordan, the United States and Britain. The last incident of heart irregularity was reported in May 1990. He also suffers from allergies and digestive disorders.

During the Gulf war, the king often looked haggard and took up smoking again after giving it up on medical advice in the summer of 1990. Doctors also advised him to diet and refrain from "physically draining activities". "He suffered from fatigue after two days of intensive state activities," the palace spokesman explained. On Sunday, the king convened a conference of 2,000 activists to endorse political reform and on Monday, army day, he greeted 4,000 subjects.



Fighting back: Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistani prime minister, leaving the national assembly yesterday, after supporting an opposition plan for public agitation against the government of Mian Nawaz Sharif. She accused the government of failing on all accounts. Her attack

came as a government delegation began a visit to Washington aimed at improving ties. Miss Bhutto said Mr Sharif's government was crawling on its belly to beg for American assistance. She added that the country received more American aid when she was in power. (AFP)

Pakistan appoints pro-US army chief

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN has appointed a liberal and pro-American general as its next army chief of staff. General Asif Nawaz, aged 54, will replace General Mirza Aslam Beg, who is retiring on August 17. The appointment ended months of political uncertainty in the country where the military has repeatedly seized power.

The Sandhurst-trained General Nawaz, born in the Punjab, was commissioned in the Pakistan army on May 31, 1957. Currently the general chief of staff, he is reputed to be a career soldier and is not known to harbour political ambitions.

Regarded as a close friend of Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, his appointment will help to end the existing distrust between the powerful army and Mr Sharif's government. In recent months reports of growing differences between General Beg and Mr Sharif over domestic and foreign policies had led to speculation of an army takeover. Few chiefs of staff in Pakistan have retired gracefully, and most have overthrown the government and established military rule. Speculation had been rife that General Beg would follow the example of his predecessors.

The conflict between the army chiefs and the fledgling civilian government took a serious turn in January when General Beg publicly criticised the government for supporting the American-led coalition forces in the Gulf war. Reputed to be anti-American, General Beg was also opposed to Pakistan's abandoning its nuclear programme under pressure from Washington. Last October the Bush administration stopped all military and economic aid after American intelligence reported that the country was close to manufacturing a nuclear bomb.

The appointment of General Nawaz is significant since Islamabad is trying to improve relations with America. Last week Mr Sharif proposed a conference which would include America, the Soviet Union, China and Pakistan to consider an agreement on nuclear non-proliferation.

ANC to face new Pretoria alliance

Johannesburg — The ruling National party in South Africa is planning to rise from the ashes of apartheid as the nucleus of the multiracial Christian Democratic Alliance, a broad-based electoral challenge to the ANC (Gavin Bell writes).

National party strategists believe that a coalition of moderates could deprive the ANC of an overall majority, and perhaps form a government. According to recent polls, the party commands the support of about 52 per cent of the white electorate. A newspaper poll of Coloureds in the Cape province last week projected that 49 per cent would vote for the Nationalists, and only 9 per cent for the ANC.

Among blacks, the Inkatha Freedom party, with an estimated four million Zulu voters, is an obvious ally together with tribal homeland leaders and independent religious organisations such as the Zion Christian Church, which claims 2.5 million members.

Legal action is to be taken against Nico Basson, a former South African army major who claimed that covert military units were supplying automatic weapons to Zulu supporters of Inkatha against the ANC in black townships, and waging a propaganda campaign against the ANC. The claims have been denied by the army and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Lava danger

Tokyo — A series of tremors and rising flows of core lava inside Mount Unzen, in southern Japan, are threatening a repetition of Saturday's eruption which destroyed at least 73 homes at the foot of the volcano. Experts say the mountain itself is weakening under pressure of core lava at 800°C.

Tamil talks

Colombo — Tamil rebels said they were ready for peace talks to end the eight-year Sri Lankan civil war and suggested negotiations in Europe. The offer came a year after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel militia, broke a ceasefire and resumed attacks on the army. (AFP)

Bomber jailed

Ottawa — Inderjit Singh Reyat was jailed for 10 years for manslaughter after making, or helping to make, the bomb that killed two Japanese baggage handlers at Tokyo's Narita airport six years ago. On the same day, 329 people died in an Air India plane that exploded off Ireland.

Rwanda reform

Nairobi — Rwanda has amended its constitution to allow opposition political parties and to hold elections. The reform signed by President Habyarimana ends the existing one-party system, but it is not clear whether the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front will be allowed to participate in the new process.

Gadafi prize

Tripoli — Colonel Gadafi has awarded his annual £150,000 human rights prize to America's native Indians. Libyan delegates at a symposium on the culture of the Indians likened the colonisation of the Americas by Europeans to Jewish settlement in Israel. (Reuters)

In the doghouse

Sydney — Huskies are being forced off Antarctica by politics, Australian scientists said. A decision to remove the huskies was made by Antarctic Treaty nations at a meeting in Madrid because they may have introduced a distemper-type virus into the seal population. (Reuters)

Old campaigner fights for Vietnam's prosperity

WHEN General Vo Nguyen Giap, the victor of Dien Bien Phu, is driven in his modest beige Lada through Hanoi these days, he must feel a sense of déjà vu. On the streets in recent months have been French soldiers in uniform — the same ones he defeated with such effort in the classic battle in 1954.

Some have Vietnamese girls on their arms; several are engaged. The French tricolour has even flown from government buildings in Hanoi, and comfortable-looking French settlers have been sitting in the Gingerbread opera house.

But the clock has not really rolled back. Eighty-five regular French soldiers are taking part in a French film of General Giap's famous battle that ended the first Indochinese war. The settlers are really Soviet embassy employees eager to earn the \$6 a day as extras.

Yet these days, thoughts of war are far from the mind of the founder of Viet Minh army centre. In advance of the seventh Vietnamese Communist party congress, General Giap preferred to project himself as the "general of peace". The military architect of successful struggles against French colonial-

General Giap, the strategist behind Vietnamese humiliation of French and American forces, now has a different goal, James Pringle writes from Hanoi

ists and American "imperialists" affects not to understand why he should always be asked about war.

His struggle now, he insists, is to ensure that Vietnam prospers. Given the problems he faces, it must seem like a labour of Sisypheus. The general is spry and belies his 79 years. He is slight of stature and would be dwarfed beside General Norman Schwarzkopf — but only in size, not as a military strategist. The four stars on the shoulder of this former history teacher have not been earned lightly.

He bounds up the stairs into the art deco former palace of the French governor of Tonkin, where Ho Chi Minh prematurely set up government in 1945, only to be ousted again until General Giap delivered victory nine years later. "Our policy of *doi moi* (renovation) faces many difficulties but the war in Vietnam lasted for some decades before victory was achieved," General Giap

said. "Everything needs time. You know we had very few weapons and were very backward, so how could we win? It was thanks to our creativity — and now it is the same with the economy. Some families have been very successful and can earn millions of dong a month; other units are not running so well. We have to sum up from what we learnt from our own experience of renovation, and combine it creatively with what we can learn from outside."

The general's fortunes have been mixed since Ho died in 1969. He lost his politburo seat in 1982, allegedly for opposing the invasion of Cambodia and Hanoi's tilt towards the Soviet Union, preferring an even-handed approach to Moscow and Peking. General Giap may have been right on both counts.

Having humiliated French, American and Chinese armies, Vietnamese troops withdrew from Cambodia in 1989 without hav-

ing eliminated the Khmer Rouge. Vietnam, feeling let down by the Soviet Union's drastic cut in aid, is now moving closer towards China again.

Despite the renovation policies, the present leaders remain remote to most Vietnamese. General Giap is popular despite the heavy sacrifices in Vietnam's wars — an impromptu chat in any Hanoi coffee shop confirms this. So the general was brought back from the cold in 1988 as deputy prime minister for science and technology.

His first wife died with their young daughter in a French prison cell, and his sister-in-law was guillotined. He was arrested for the first time at the age of 14. But this has not embittered him, nor he is a dry ideologue with his mind set in the past. General Giap, who once said that he was never without a copy of T. E. Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, which he called his fighting gospel, added: "I hope that the British people will continue to keep their sympathy for Vietnam and understand us and our sympathy towards them. We want to invite British friends and investors to come and do business and

understand us better." They might start by looking at General Giap's army. A 1990 government decree permitted the descendants of the Viet Minh to go into business and they have entered the market with a will.



Giap: projects himself as general for peace

for instance, building roads on contract, even growing coffee and rubber.

Profits, any British soldier might be interested to know, go towards improving barracks and food. The air force charges foreign oil executives to ferry them to the rigs offshore. The navy is in business too — fishing, of course.

Safe havens for boat people urged

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is to begin direct talks next month with Hanoi on British proposals for safe havens within Vietnam to which boat people could be forcibly repatriated from Hong Kong.

The Foreign Office wants to begin talks immediately, but the Vietnamese will not receive a delegation until their party congress is over. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told a delegation from the Hong Kong legislature yesterday that Britain hoped these safe havens would relieve the pressure on the camps, which are now overcrowded with a record number of Vietnamese.

The delegation of four, representing the legislature and led by Rita Fan, expressed growing anger in Hong Kong over the continuing influx and demanded drastic action that could include an automatic rejection of everyone arriving. Mr Hurd said he understood their frustration, but warned them that ending screening or pushing boats out to sea could lead to suicides by boat people amid a wave of unfavourable publicity.

Britain has few illusions that any Vietnamese will re-

Russians go to the polls as presidential candidates wind up historic campaign

Yeltsin leaves his rivals in race to be runner-up

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE people of Russia go to the polls today to elect the president of their republic — the first time they will have a leader with a real, popular mandate since the revolution. Even a year ago this would have been dismissed as fantasy. But democracy — Russian style — has already taken hold, not altogether in the Western manner.

Some people, including most of Boris Yeltsin's opponents, say the election is being held only because Mr Yeltsin is assured of victory and is exploiting the democratic process to extend his power. "After waiting millennia to hold a presidential election," asked his closest rival, Nikolai Ryzhkov, yesterday, "why hold it in three weeks flat?"

This argument tends to ignore Mr Yeltsin's genuinely broad support in almost all social groups. The most pessimistic of the many (highly suspect) opinion polls by a selection of research institutes, give him between 36 and 52 per cent of the vote. Local polls, of samples which are by Western standards small, show Mr Yeltsin's support reaching 80 per cent in some urban areas and rarely

falling below 50 per cent.

The chief concern of Mr Yeltsin's backers is that voters will stay at home planning victory celebrations. To win in the first ballot, he needs more than 50 per cent of all votes cast. With six candidates in contention, this is hard, but not impossible.

Victory in the first round would enhance Mr Yeltsin's reputation and strengthen his mandate; a second ballot would give further opportunity for his opponents to try to discredit him, but victory would still be secure.

Today, the only real contest is for second place, and in the long term this could turn out to be the more significant. This competition is not just between the very different characters of former prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov, and former interior minister, Vadim Bakatin. It is between two quite different images of the still-ruling Communist party. It may also be something of a rehearsal for the first Soviet presidential elections which must surely come.

The slightly tired looking Mr Ryzhkov, who suffered a heart attack last December, stands for the old way of doing things through the bureaucracy. He represents the centrist-conservative wing of the

Pavlov gives grim ultimatum

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

VALENTIN Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister, told parliament yesterday that his government was breaking the back of the country's domestic economic difficulties, but the situation in foreign trade was "exceptionally bad". Promised foreign credits were arriving "in tiny rivulets" and the country was finding it "very hard to stay afloat".

Mr Pavlov, who cut short a visit to Yugoslavia at the weekend, was appearing at the insistence of deputies who had complained that they had no information to present to their constituents before today's Russian presidential election. Mr Pavlov said that the fall in industrial production, more than 30 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared with the same period of 1990, had been halted and that the government was "now back in control of the economy". The next two to three months would decide "whether the economy has stabilised or finally runs out of control".

In less welcome news, Mr Pavlov said that the government would be forced to print more money to keep pace with wage and price increases. He warned of "pogroms" of savings bank counters if the exchequer did not have the money available when pensioners wanted to draw on their savings.

Ryzhkov: feeling heat of the campaign yesterday

party and advocates only cautious change. The fast-talking telegenic Mr Bakatin is on the centrist-reform wing of the party and could easily be accommodated in a social democratic party.

The Communist party, and President Gorbachev will be watching closely to see which of the two gains more votes. If it is the hesitant Mr Ryzhkov, with the support of the army and the peasants, then the battle for the soul of the Communist party will continue. If, however, Mr Bakatin takes second place, then Mr Gorbachev might decide to take the party in a more reformist direction and even risk splitting or renaming it, confident that he has public support.

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Campaign trail: two members of the Russian Democratic party, surrounded by posters of their presidential candidate, Boris Yeltsin, relaxing against the backdrop of a monument to Yuri Dolgoruki, founder of Moscow. Voters go to the polls today

Plebiscite on Leningrad name change divides city

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN LENINGRAD

THE first thing seen by a visitor arriving at Leningrad railway station is a wall covered with engraved extracts from the 1924 proclamation that changed the city's name. "May this almighty centre of proletarian revolution be linked forever with the greatest of the proletarian leaders, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin," it declares.

Then more sordid realities intrude: a cart of bulky taxi drivers who insist on hand-currency for a five-minute ride through the splendid decaying streets of the city that was founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Leningrad, whose citizens vote today on whether to revert to the historic name of St Petersburg — or more precisely Sankt Petersburg, a piece of bastardised German which sounds equally odd in Russian

and in English — encapsulates Russia's contradictions at their sharpest. Its radicals are wilder and more idealistic, and its communists more grimly unreconstructed than anywhere in the country. It is a city of refined pre-revolutionary manners, sleazy criminals and black marketers. The plebiscite, which has divided down the middle the city's population of five million, has exacerbated these contradictions to a degree that is sometimes frightening — particularly if Leningrad is viewed as a weather-vane of trends elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

While most opinion surveys give a clear majority to those who favour keeping the current name, one of the city's most respected pollsters reckons the result could be very close, and does not rule out a

victory for the tsarist name. Leonid Keselman's research shows that 45 per cent of respondents fully or broadly supported retention of Leningrad, while 41 per cent backed St Petersburg.

The pollsters' findings also confirm how deeply the issue divides generations: residents under the age of 30 backed St Petersburg by 57 per cent, while those over the age of 60 preferred Leningrad by 63 to 25. So even if today's referendum shows a majority in favour of the status quo, it seems only a matter of time before the name chosen by Peter the Great is restored.

The Communist Party machine, dented by the city's government last summer, has mounted a tough, angry campaign "in the defence of Leningrad". It has driven home endlessly the point that the city's most heroic feat, its endurance of the 900-day Nazi blockade, was achieved under its current name. Reversion to St Petersburg, party officials say, would be a despicable slur not only on the *blokadni*, as survivors of the siege call themselves, but on their fellow citizens who died of cold and hunger, about 600,000 of whom lie buried in a single grave.



Big city mayors expect to stay on

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WHILE all Russia will be voting today for the republic's first elected president, citizens of Moscow and Leningrad will also be electing a mayor. In both cities, the outcome is a foregone conclusion, with the incumbents (the radical mayors chosen by the city councils after last spring's elections) assured of a big majority.

In Moscow, the popular choice will be Gavril Popov, the mayor whose proposal that the mayor be directly elected received an 80 per cent majority in the March 17 referendum. Mr Popov, a plain-speaking former academic economist with a touch of silver hair, is well liked in Moscow.

Mr Popov faces two other

main candidates: his predecessor as mayor, Valeri Saikin, who is regarded as a competent administrator of the old school, and Aleksei Bryachikhin, whose lively manner belies his orthodox Communist party views. Mr Bryachikhin's main claim to fame is that he was deputed to stand against Boris Yeltsin for the Moscow parliamentary constituency, which Mr Yeltsin won resoundingly two years ago.

In Leningrad, the present mayor, Anatoli Sobchak, faces only one opponent, from the Communist party. He was so confident of victory that he left Leningrad at the weekend to campaign for Mr Yeltsin in southern Russia.

Historic vote fails to stir interest at military base

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN KALININGRAD

KALININGRAD is an island of Russian territory wedged between Poland and rebellious Lithuania. If the latter republic achieves real independence, Kaliningrad will be cut off from Soviet territory.

Until the end of the second world war the region was East Prussia, part of Germany. German reunification has aroused concern here about possible future German expansionism.

These factors may make for conservatism in the region's response in the Russian presidential vote today. Among the local people I interviewed yesterday and in recent polls in local newspapers, the biggest group was made up of those who have not decided how to vote at all, saying for example, "None of these candidates will be able to achieve anything."

Only a minority of people here appear strongly to support Boris Yeltsin. Several whom I interviewed accused him of changing his policies too often, of being "unreliable" and of causing internal conflict. However, opponents of Mr Yeltsin are split between

all the other candidates. Kaliningrad is an army and naval base which until last year was closed to foreigners, and active and retired officers play a big part in local politics. This does not, however, translate into strong support for the extreme right-wing candidate, General Albert Makashov.

A lieutenant-colonel from the garrison admitted to me that some officers will vote for him, but described them as "stupid uneducated children, without any knowledge of politics." He said that he and many other officers will vote for Mr Yeltsin because "he is the most progressive candidate, and is surrounded by clever people."

A speech by Mr Yeltsin to officers during his visit to Kaliningrad in January may have been partly responsible for this attitude. In this speech he declared: "No one can say that Russia will economise at the army's expense... the government of Russia is for military reform and this means stronger armed forces."

Support for Mr Yeltsin seems particularly strong in the Soviet navy. This service retained some of the traditions of the old Russian imperial navy, which incline many of its officers to a variety of Russian nationalism actively hostile to the Soviet establishment and ideology. The high education of many naval officers also inclines them to liberalism.

The geographical position of Kaliningrad means that its inhabitants are particularly aware of developments in the Baltic republics. Several people said that they were worried about the Lithuanian establishment of border guards and customs posts, which threatened their ability to travel freely.

Albania party expels key group

Tirana — Nine former politburo members of the Albanian communist Party of Labour were yesterday expelled from the party (Liam McDowell writes). The group, which less than a year ago controlled Europe's last bastion of stalinism, included Hekuran Isai, Qanush Myrtiu and Rita Marko. They were accused of "gross abuse of power".

The expulsions came during the party's first national congress for five years, and the first since the introduction of political pluralism in December. Reformers and conservatives have clashed repeatedly as the party attempts to come to terms with the loss of its hold on power. The sackings were, in the words of Zeri i Popullit, the daily communist newspaper, intended to show a new face of socialism.

Hostages key

Beirut — Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, said here, after a one-hour meeting with President Hrawi, of Lebanon, that the country could not prosper without foreign investment, and that such investment would not be available until all 13 Western hostages held in the country were released. (AP)

Cambodia talks

Bangkok — Six representatives from the Cambodian government, including Hun Sen, the prime minister, and six from the guerrilla factions, including Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge, resume peace talks on June 24 at Pataya, south of here. For the first time no foreign delegates will attend.

Airline attack

Milan — Bombs damaged an office of the Spanish airline Iberia here, and a Spanish college in Bologna, slightly injuring four policemen. Police said a man claimed responsibility for both attacks in the name of the Basque separatist group Eta and an Italian group, the Armed Falange. (AP)

India poll gloom

Delhi — India's delayed general election enters its second phase today amid growing apprehension about the post-poll scene if there is no outright winner. New warnings about the possible imposition of a state of emergency if it proves difficult to form a new government are being made by newspapers and observers.

Democracy drive

Dhaka — The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist party has decided to restore parliamentary democracy after 16 years of virtual one-man rule under a presidential system. Parliament will be sovereign and the presidency will become a figurehead office under a proposed amendment to the constitution.

Murder case

Sydney — Police are treating as murder the death of a female British hiker whose decomposed body was discovered at a holiday area in the Northern Territory, Australia. The victim, who has not been identified, was found near Edith Falls, a popular spring 25 miles north of the town of Katherine.

Germans rue departure of US and British troops

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AMERICAN troops in Germany have developed an immunity down the years to graffiti and demonstrators saying "Yanks go home". Now that they really are starting to leave in large numbers, however, the chant has changed to "Yanks please stay".

Although the "peace dividend" since the Cold War ended has allowed Bonn to cut its defence budget by 1.6 per cent, planned troop withdrawals and force reductions are now causing alarm in local communities which rely heavily on military bases for employment.

In Rhineland-Palatinate, the home state of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, American forces are the third largest employer. In April, the chancellor's Christian Democrats lost control of the state for the first time and looming unemployment caused by wholesale American withdrawals was a big issue in the election.

The British Army of the Rhine is also more popular since the announcement that under new Nato structuring plans it was to be halved to around 25,000 men. Resented down the years as an army of occupation, BAOR now finds

whole communities in North Rhine-Westphalia are anxious for the troops to stay.

The same has happened in the Saarland, where the French have based 50,000 men. Under strong German pressure, France has slowed down but not cancelled the withdrawal of the entire contingent. Even the longest for departure of the 600,000 Soviet troops and dependents in the east is not without its economic problems, especially for local farmers.

Cut-backs in the German army are also under way, with the planned closure of 213 Bundeswehr bases and a reduction of overall strength to 370,000 from the 495,000 only two years ago. With tens of thousands of posts at risk, the public service union has called a series of nationwide protest meetings to press for urgent government action to stop the jobs dwindling.

Last weekend 8,000 took part in demonstrations against troop withdrawals. Speaking to protesters outside the US army headquarters in Heidelberg, the union's president, Frau Monika Wulf-Matthies, accused the Americans of unfairness and the German

government of failing to do more to cushion the impact of so many job losses. The Heidelberg headquarters announced last week that by the end of next year another 33,000 troops would be leaving and that a further 8,000 civilian jobs would have to be cut. Only three years ago 60,000 Germans drew American pay, but by the end of next year this will be down to 35,000.

As the American garrison dwindles, so will the amount of money it spends. A survey of four years ago estimated that American troops brought DM14.2 billion (£4.8 billion) into the German economy each year. That is likely to be halved by the end of next year.

BAOR employees 18,500 civilians, mostly in North Rhine-Westphalia, and negotiations over redundancies have bogged down since March, when the union side rejected a package involving severance pay and retraining.

The British forces are also big spenders. Including dependents, there are 138,000 living on or around bases and between them they are estimated to spend £1 billion and pay civilian wages of £254 million.

Cold war warriors lose faith in national unity

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

BEHIND the Prussian facade of the Joint German Institute, posters encouraging loyal West Germans to report "irregularities and suspicious encounters" to the secret services have disappeared. The corridors and library are empty. This research centre of the former inner-German ministry once handled the thorny matter of co-existence between the two German states. With its 250 employees, based in Bonn and Berlin, it had the best archive on east German affairs anywhere.

At a moment's notice, Günther Buch, who heads the archive, can pull out the file on the state of the old communist party's relations with Argentina in 1971, or the purges of Christian Democrats in Saxony towns in 1957. There are even files on key individuals, not yet open to the public.

The inner-German ministry disappeared last January without anyone really noticing, transformed overnight into the ministry for

family and senior citizens. Its specialists were taken over by the interior ministry. With the changes disappeared the financing of research projects.

A small group of specialists remains to provide "first aid" on matters that require specialised knowledge of the east. "We are the Western victims of

him in his work. "I have always been a convinced anti-communist," he said. "I left the east in 1950, because I could see that the Hitler dictatorship was being replaced by the communist one."

His father received a seven-year jail sentence for sedition and died of the consequences. Herr Buch pledged himself to a life of resistance against the east German regime. Now he feels piqued by the abruptness with which the government has got rid of its experts. "We were the ones who held on to the ideal of unity when the politicians and populace had given up on it," he said. "Now we are treated as Cold War leftovers," Herr Buch added.

But the fate of the former east German experts inspires little sympathy amongst Bonn politicians who are still smarting from the fact that they were caught unawares by east Germany's collapse and blame their researchers for failing to spot the warning signs.

The very process we always longed for: German unity," says Herr Buch sadly. He makes no bones about the motivation that sustained



Walesa calls for special powers

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday proposed that the Polish government be given special emergency powers to run the ailing economy and stave off worker discontent.

The move comes in the midst of profound political problems. The president feels that the parliament, with its large block of ex-communists, does not have the authority to steer the country through a period of economic upheaval. Nor is there a solid constituency backing the government of Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, which is trying to implement tough monetarist policies agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

The result is that every strike — transport workers and dustmen a few days ago, air traffic controllers this week — threatens to derail Poland's ambitious plans for a market economy and spreads dismay among Western investors. President Walesa's idea is to throw his authority as democratically elected head of state behind the government and side-track parliament as much as possible.

The special powers, which would be valid for one year only, should be designed by

the government, the president believes. They are still vague but plainly the government wants a free hand to privatise quickly and start to break up state-owned industry. Presidential advisers say that the powers would be narrowly economic rather than political. Even so, it may be that the government could also claim the power to ban strikes in strategic industries.

But for any special powers package to work, the government would need the active support of the Solidarity trade union. President Walesa will meet Solidarity leaders today to explain the move and win their backing. Mr Bielecki meets unionists on Saturday and may offer them ministerial portfolios.

President Walesa's proposals were set out in a letter to parliament yesterday. Parliament would have to change the constitution, which requires a two-thirds majority, and it is not certain that it would take such a step.

Much depends on the Solidarity unionists and farmers' groupings. If they support a special powers package, then parliament might find the necessary majority.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 1991

Albania party expels key group

Tirana Nine members of the Albanian Party of Labour have been expelled from the party for alleged involvement in the assassination of a high-ranking official.

Hostages key

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Cambodia talk

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Airline attack

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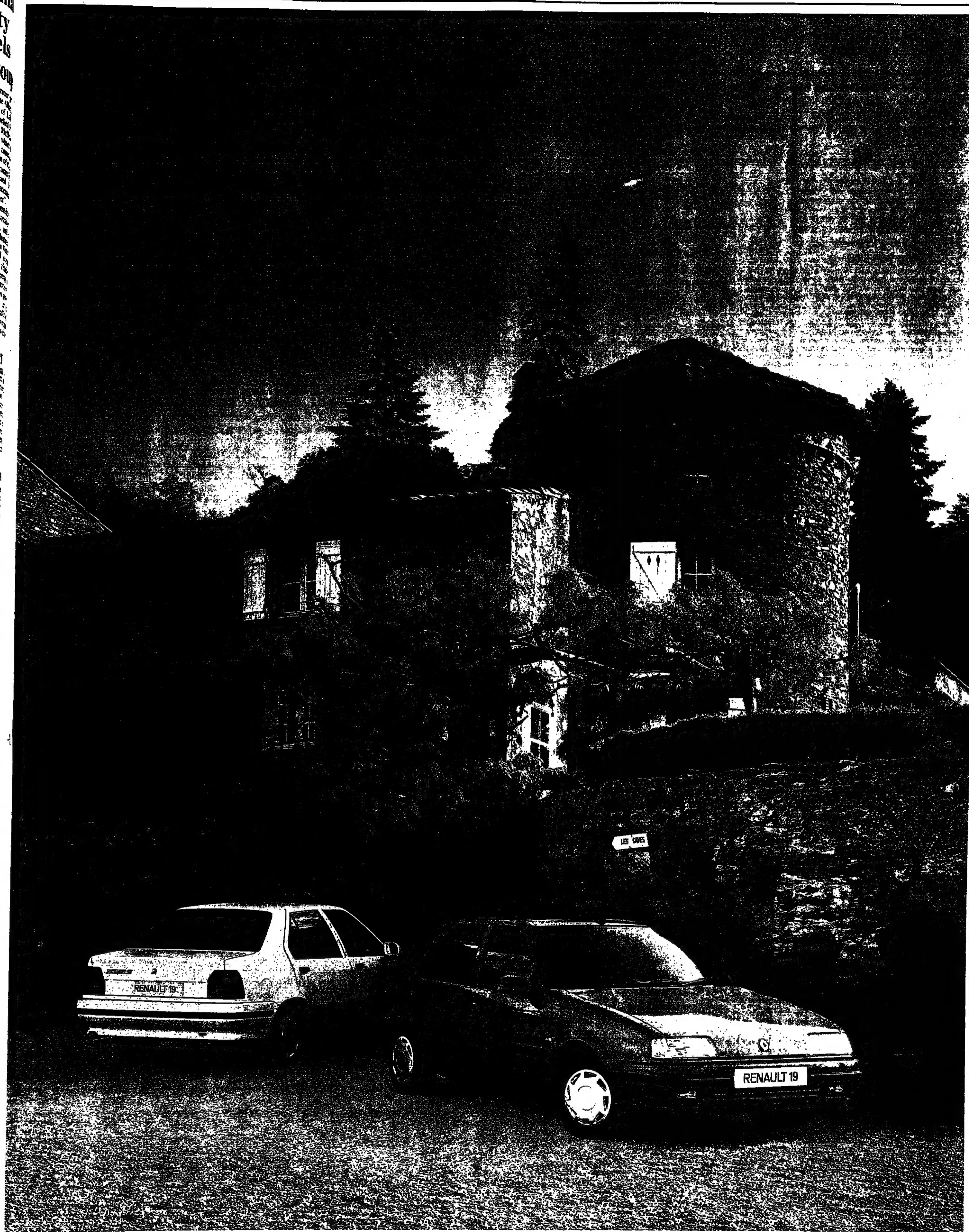
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For application form please telephone (quoting appropriate ref.) our answerphone 021-414 8921 which is in operation between 9.30 am and 6.30 pm, Monday to Friday. Application forms should be returned to Appointments Unit, BBC, Room 603, Pebble Mill, Birmingham B5 7QQ.

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WILLIAM CASH

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FLIGHT crews are issued with smoke hoods, according to the Consumers' Association, and it was reported this week that members of the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport's air accident investigators carry their own. Could air passengers do the same? Only filter-type smoke hoods are easily available. This is "basically a sophisticated 'roaster bag' which filters out smoke, but not carbon monoxide", according to Stewart Kidd, the director of the Fire Protection Association. "It should give you an extra three to five minutes," he says. Dowty Environmental Safety Products, Swadincote, Derbyshire DE11 9DX (0283 221122) sells one type at £27 including VAT. Another is available from Draeger, Kitty Brewster Trading Estate, Blythe, Northumberland (0670 352891), at £72 plus VAT.

Animal magic

ANIMAL lovers are drawn to animal jewellery, and from today until July 20 an exhibition of some pieces

dating from 1700 to 1950 is open to the public at Sandra Cronan, 18 Burlington Arcade, London W1. Bejewelled polo players jockey for position with some 1940s Cartier classics, such as a dachshund brooch set with citrines for £8,800. The most expensive piece is a Victorian diamond dragonfly brooch (£33,500), but there are stickpins and card cases for less than £1,000.

Wizard wheeze

ANYONE with energy to spare on behalf of asthma sufferers can do so by having every mile cycled between July 1 and 7 sponsored for the National Asthma Campaign. All money raised will help to fund more research into the disease, which afflicts one in every ten children in the UK and is on the increase. Challenge cups will be awarded to top fundraisers. Details, sponsor forms and free cycle stickers are available from Summer Cycle Challenge, The Old Village Stores, Corston, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 0HD (0666 824929) or the National Asthma Campaign, 300 Upper St, London N1 2XX (071-226 2260).

VICTORIA MCKEE

Bomb disposal is not a job for gung-ho men — or for women of any kind, Alexandra King reports



"People think you're a hero or a nutter": experts making safe a second world war bomb

No place for heroes

A sense of humour, agreed the officers of the Army School of Ammunition, which trains the bomb disposal officers of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), is an essential ingredient for the job. Sitting in an arsenal of ammunition ancient and modern — with their "black museum" of terrorist incendiary devices (including a mock-up of the mortar bomb fired at the cabinet on February 7) across the corridor — it was hard to see much to smile about.

A favourite photograph is blown up, so to speak, on the wall. It shows an IEDD operator making what is known as "the long walk", alone, towards his unknown enemy in hostile territory, by a sign coincidentally proclaiming "Prepare to Meet Thy God". "The guy who's too wound up can be dangerous," says Andy, the major in charge of the Land Service Ammunition section of the school. Intelligence (which does not have to mean academic qualifica-

tions), the ability to think logically under stress, a "balanced" psychological profile, as well as the leadership qualities to take control when all around are panicking, are also required before a candidate is allowed to take the IEDD (Improvised Explosive Device Disposal) course that would prepare him to deal with terrorist bombs.

"It's a fine balance between confidence and over-confidence," says the lieutenant-colonel in charge of the school. He, like all the instructors, has seen active bomb disposal service; more than half of them have gallantry awards. "We don't want anyone who's gung-ho."

With only three deaths on active duty since 1977, the statistics are in favour of survival. During their 14 months of training the "bomb doctors", as Ammunition Technical Officers (ATOs) are colloquially known, are familiarised with every type of explosive device, from first world war mustard gas canisters to state-of-the-art missiles. Their training is the subject of the BBC1 documentary *The Visit* next Wednesday.

While the Royal Engineers are called upon primarily to clear battlefields, the RAOC is the most important line of defence against terrorist bombs in peacetime. The corps has a full company of bomb disposal officers on clean-up detail in the Gulf.

The explosive ordnance disposal section trains 600 students from Britain and 97 other countries — including, until recently, Iran and Iraq — on 49 courses each year. The training has three phases: CMD (conventional munitions disposal), BCMD (biological and chemical munitions disposal) and IEDD. This last is taught only to those who have come through the two earlier phases with flying colours.

IEDD work is considered out of bounds for female personnel in the British forces. "There's no reason why a woman can't do the job," says an adjutant of the Royal Engineers. "You don't have to be particularly strong, although you do have to be able to move a 500lb bomb around on occasion. But IEDD work is still considered too risky for a woman." The ability to cope with the protective, armoured suit which is the bomb doctor's uniform, and weighs 60lb, might also have something to do with the decision, some suggest. "If policy changed we would quite happily train them, as we do foreign women," the lieutenant-colonel says.

Inevitably ATOs protest they are just ordinary guys. "I don't say I'm an ATO because people either think you're a hero or a nutter," one tells Desmond Wilcox in the BBC film. Another says he took the course because it was the quickest way to promotion.

"Although some become, during the course of their work, a hero, if you could identify that trait in someone during training I wouldn't have them," the lieutenant-colonel says. It is clear, however, that some relish their reputation as danger men.

Half of those who take up the challenge of bomb disposal training do not make the grade. It costs £100,000 to train an operator. His training is continually updated, just like terrorist technology.

The school's "black museum" includes home-made bombs of matches strapped to squash bottles containing petrol ("the sort of things kids make in the back garden") and a more sophisticated collection of car and mortar bombs. "If you had a chance to interview a terrorist," the lieutenant-colonel says, "I'd bet you'd find he has an unstated admiration for the bomb disposal man."

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The Thatcher inheritance

Jewellery collection adds a new facet to the protocol of ministerial gifts

One of Margaret Thatcher's lesser-known contributions to the British way of life is the collection of jewellery given to her by eastern rulers during her 11-year premiership.

While some will see the jewels as a predictable offshoot to having a woman prime minister, others regard them as another example of Mrs Thatcher's regal aspirations. Either way, it means that the Crown Jewels, on public display in the Tower of London, now have a state rival tucked away in the vaults of Number Ten.

There is nothing unusual about prime ministers — or, indeed, any ministers — receiving gifts. The government rule is that individuals, be they prime ministers, ministers or civil servants, can keep anything valued at less than £100. A gift worth more than that should be refused. In the case of gifts from overseas governments or organisations special rules apply and it is suggested that, where refusal might appear discourteous, a gift should be given in return. Then it is up to the head of the government department to decide whether the recipient may keep the gift, whether it should be sold, or if the department should retain it in order that it can be displayed in the future as a sign of politeness.

Lord Callaghan, the former Labour prime minister, recalls receiving "various things which we left behind" during his premiership, but there was never any jewellery for his wife.

Downing Street will not give details of any gifts received by past or present prime ministers but a spokesman admits that most of Mrs Thatcher's were given by "Middle East people" and that "when Mrs Thatcher went we weren't sure what to do with them [the jewels]. It was suggested that they go the Treasury but then the idea was struck to make them Downing Street property because that way we will always have access to them and future incumbents can use them."

Some of the Downing Street

diamonds made an appropriate post-Thatcher debut at a recent banquet at Windsor castle. While the Queen wore her personal jewellery, Norma Major was decked in a selection of the gems which Mrs Thatcher left behind. For the prime minister's wife it was an experience which she is reported to have compared with being the fairy on the Christmas tree.

Mrs Thatcher's comments on receiving them have never been recorded. Vivienne Becker, a jewellery historian, believes it possible that the eastern rulers felt obliged to give Mrs Thatcher gifts of jewels simply because she was a woman. "It would be interesting to discover whether she indicated that it was OK."

Ms Becker was surprised to learn that Mrs Thatcher had received the jewels "because I didn't know that happened to people other than royalty. I think it's significant because jewels are very much symbols of power and expressions of status. It's an age-old tradition. During the Renaissance, ordinary people were not allowed to wear jewellery for that reason."

"I think that the way Mrs Thatcher dressed and looked was a good reflection of her power and personality. At the same time, jewels are very much a symbol of femininity."

The fact that at least some of the jewels are diamonds is significant, according to Ms Becker. "Diamonds are ideal for Mrs Thatcher because they are so tough, so enduring and full of fire. They are indestructible and cold and warm at the same time."

SALLY BROMPTON



Mrs Major at Windsor



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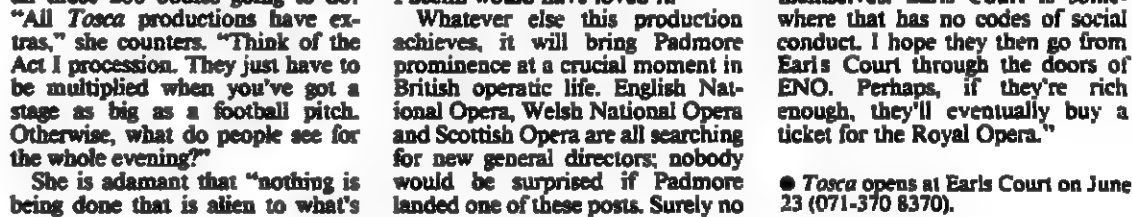
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Labour's wrong way to engineer industry's revival

Nigel Hawkes

In a lecture theatre made famous by Michael Faraday, the Labour party yesterday launched its new statement on science. Long on rhetoric and full of ideas in need of a second wind, *Pushing Back the Frontiers* is unlikely to have the same impact as Harold Wilson's speeches on science and technology in the early 1960s, dearly as the Labour party would like it to.

Apparently unconscious of the irony of calling for greater public spending on science in an institution founded on private beneficence, Neil Kinnock argued that government meanness towards science and scientists was reducing the chance of spawning new Faradays today. A Labour government would increase public spending on research and development, he said, from 1.8 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent.

By coincidence, this is almost exactly the fraction of the national wealth that was spent on science when Harold Wilson came to power in 1964. Those who remember "the white heat of technology" will not recall those days as a golden age for Britain; the difficulties that assailed us today were already nagging away.

Harold Wilson's plans, although more carefully crafted than yesterday's document, failed in their main purpose of improving British competitiveness. Arguably, science and technology had nothing at all to do with it. Ever since the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development began gathering internationally comparable figures in the 1960s, it has been clear that Britain is in the top bracket in science spending.

During the 1960s, both Japan and West Germany spent less than us, as did France and Italy. Yet all four countries have outpaced Britain economically.

Britain has never been under-scientified, at least not since the days when Faraday, as a young bookbinder, was teaching himself the rudiments of natural philosophy. Then, no government money was spent on science, but the results speak for themselves. Of course, plenty of scientists will declare the opposite. But the awful truth is that most scientists could stop working without making much difference to Britain's economic performance.

Scientific research may be a necessary condition for economic prosperity, but it is not a sufficient one. In Britain one can go further and say that the prestige attached to science over engineering has been one of the factors responsible for turning the nation that pioneered the industrial revolution into an economic also-ran.

Science epitomises the aristocratic, detached, and scholarly virtues; it can be practised in clean laboratories, in pleasant places, by gentlemen. Engineering is per-

ceived as being for Northern towns and self-educated men with dirty hands. A consequence of the revolution against industry in the second half of the 19th century was the elevation of science, at the expense of engineering, and we are paying the price to this day.

Britain does not have too little science, but too few industries with the ability to exploit it. Before the industrial armageddon of the 1980s, I toured a ruined Manchester factory with the late Lord Bowden, an engineer and junior minister in Harold Wilson's government. Close to tears, Bowden despaired that a great manufacturing city had come to this, with huge factories left to the rust and the rats.

Hundreds of reports and PhD theses have attempted to discover how and why this came about, but no one has ever argued that it happened because the government spent too little on



Engineering should not be a poor relation of science

chemistry or physics. While Britain's industrial heart decayed, university scientists flourished and Nobel prizes rolled in. At no point did the two worlds converge. Lip-service was paid to the need for better engineering education, but the second they got the chance the old colleges of advanced technology bolted for university status. The new polytechnics are being offered the same chance: just watch them run.

To be fair, *Pushing Back the Frontiers* does acknowledge that industrial research and innovation is one of the keys to success, and points out that too little research is carried out in many industries. The Labour remedy would be to provide tax incentives, paying 25 per cent of the cost of the increase in a company's research spending over the level in a base year. This might help, although in British conditions it would be more likely to lead to nifty work in the accounts department with existing expenditure being redefined as research so as to qualify for the government's shilling.

For the rest, Labour's ideas do not excite. A science minister working in the Cabinet Office, a research council devoted to the humanities, even an independent office of technology assessment. New attitudes are needed more than new institutions.

The best thing Labour can do is to stop pretending the answer lies in more money, yours and mine, thrown at difficulties. The party should look at Switzerland, poor a century ago and now prosperous thanks to its excellent engineering and pharmaceutical companies.

Switzerland's total spending on science is typical of a developed economy, but the government's share is only 22 per cent, about half what it is here. Maybe Swiss scientists complain, but if so the Swiss are too busy to listen, and too sensible to care.

A new politics is in the making which will transform the quality of life, predicts Martin Jacques

Customers should always have rights

On Friday, John Major will outline some of the details of his much-leaked citizens' charter for the public services. The very title is indicative of the enormous change in the terms of political debate since the heyday of Mrs Thatcher in the late Eighties. The word "citizen" suggests rights, equality and society, a far cry from the previously favoured double-act consumer and market. And the word "charter" suggests the enshrinement of popular rights and the obligations of government.

There has been an extraordinary change in the political mood. The priorities and platitudes of Thatcherism have evaporated like winter snow in hot spring weather, but this is hard to come to terms with, such was their endurance and power. However, each new popular concern helps to ram home the point: poll tax, the NHS, directors' salaries, gas and

telecom profits, banks and small businesses, the future of ICL. The Zeitgeist has changed.

Yet this is no simple swing of the pendulum. The belief, widespread in the 1980s, that we were living through a historic shift has not been disproved. Thatcherism was part of the cause, but only to the extent that it expressed deeper changes. Thatcherism was good at drawing a line under the past, but its vision of the future was weak. The fact that there will be no return to the past is best illustrated by four of the central propositions of Thatcherism.

The first concerns the importance of the consumer in relation to the producer. There is no evidence that the pendulum is swinging back towards the producer, but our understanding of the role of the consumer is certainly changing. Previously the consumer meant just the individual in the market, now the term

suggests rights (as exemplified by Mr Major's citizens' charter) and responsibilities (as illustrated by the green consumer). Consumption is no longer viewed as primarily an individual economic act; like production, it is seen as a social process with social consequences.

The second proposition concerns the relationship between public and private. Thatcherism sought to shift the centre of gravity decisively away from the public sector. Interestingly, no one seeks to reverse that shift, although no one wants to continue it either. Thus, Mr Major's citizens' charter explicitly accepts that the public services should remain public.

Rather, something else has happened: the heat has gone out of the ownership debate: it has lost its historic meaning. Drawing a line between the public and private sectors is becoming harder and harder. So with the debate about

the rights of citizens with regard to public services, gathering momentum, a similar debate about the private sector cannot be long delayed. The accountability of collective institutions (such as government and the unions) was a key theme of the 1980s; the 1990s will see a similar demand with regard to public companies.

The third proposition involves the relationship between the state and individual. No one is seeking to increase the power of the state, again, but the citizens' charter and Charter 88 are evidence of a new desire to guarantee in written form individual rights with regard to the state. Meanwhile something else has happened: there is a quite new emphasis on the importance of society and of community ties. In this instance, a famous Thatcherite dictum is being disavowed: the idea that there is no such thing as society.

Finally, consider the market.

This is the meeting place of right and left: no one now advocates a return to old forms of state planning and intervention. But there is great concern about the inequities and imbalances generated by the market-led revolution of the 1980s. There is no question of returning to the *status quo ante*. The aim is to establish a just set of values in the society which emerged from the changes of the 1980s (of which the row over directors' pay is a symptom).

The reason so much of the present Conservative rhetoric against Labour has little resonance is that it fails to acknowledge not only how much Labour has changed, but how much the political debate has shifted. We are on new ground, which historically belongs to neither left nor right. We may have left the Thatcherite era behind, but there is no going back. A new politics is in the making.

The Bear on a slippery slope

The West is far too optimistic about the future of the Soviet Union, cautions Conor Cruise O'Brien



enormous political and economic upheaval, the outcome of which no one can predict. The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact represented one phase of this upheaval, and of course a most welcome one to the peoples of Eastern and Central Europe, as well as to the West. But other phases — such as the action in the Baltic republics — have not been reassuring, and it would be foolish to assume that disconcerting and dangerous developments can be excluded in an evolving situation. Not a good conjuncture in which to disarm, I should have thought.

No one can predict the future of the Soviet Union, but one way of thinking about it is to eliminate those developments which one considers to be unlikely. The following nine propositions are, I believe, unlikely:

- That the Soviet Union will disintegrate.
- That the disintegrating tendencies will go away.
- That force will not be used to arrest disintegration.
- That the Soviet Union will become a democracy.
- That hopes for the transition to a market economy will be fulfilled.

□ That relations with the West will improve or remain as good as they are now.

□ That Moscow will get as much money from the West as it feels it needs.

□ That the West's failure to provide the money will not lead to a deterioration in East-West relations.

□ That Soviet forces will be withdrawn from Germany by 1994.

Union will evolve differently, and some may move towards a market economy. Reports suggest the emergence of a new capitalist class consisting of members of the old *nomenklatura* (the only people, after all, who had any chance of accumulating capital). But the vested interests of the bureaucracy and its clients is likely to prevent a general transition to the market.

The propositions of most direct interest to the West (the last three) seem virtually certain to prove false. Moscow will not get as much money as it needs from the West, and when its hopes are dashed, relations are likely to deteriorate, especially if Western refusal is linked to criticism of repression in the Baltic states or elsewhere.

Further secessionist activity is likely in the six republics that refused to take part in the referendum. If they are frustrated, a guerrilla war may result. The military repression likely to meet such a war would be uninhibited about use of force, not only against the guerrillas, but against communities harbouring them. The inevitable Western protests would lead to Soviet charges that the Western powers were fomenting the rebels. A spiralling deterioration in East-West relations would follow. The Cold War, now generally assumed to be over, would be back in a new, and possibly worse, form. None of this is inevitable. But the dangerous possibilities should not be ignored.

The key proposition is the last one. If all Soviet forces are indeed out of Germany on schedule, by 1994, several of my claims may reasonably be dismissed as alarmist. However, until the Soviet forces have been withdrawn, it is folly for the West to act on the assumption that they will be. True, Mr Gorbachev has agreed to withdraw them, but he may not be in power in 1994.

Even now Mr Gorbachev does not appear to be fully in charge, and some of the people contending for power sound as if they might not be averse to seeing what might be done for the ailing Soviet economy by a touch of nuclear blackmail. This may not happen, but it is a possibility that should surely be allowed for.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Today, I must not put a foot wrong. Above all, not a wheel wrong. If I do, the next thing I know there will be a crazed hammering at the door and a horde of fanatics ululating on the step, eyes rolling, anoraks heaving, foam flecking their upper lips, and tripods hefted in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace.

So when I tell you that I spent Saturday being hauled across England behind steam locomotive No 5029 Nunney Castle, a GWR Castle Class 4-6-0, you will know that every digit is true. You do not cross these people. Write 4-6-4, just for a laugh, and you are likely to be lashed wrist and ankle to the permanent way before you can say Pearl White.

And they know who I am. They have several thousand photographs of me. I watched them take the several thousand photographs of me between Didcot and Great Malvern, and by now, they will not only have gawped me to the walls of their loff-conversions, above their Horny Dublo layouts. You will have to peer closely to spot me, I am just one starflecked face among hundreds staring from the carriage windows, but I am there nonetheless. Our faces are startled since that is what happens to a face when one moment it is gazing out on empty Cotswold fields, and the next moment it is gazing out on full Cotswold fields, because several thousand fanatics have suddenly stood up in the shoulder-high grass and begun firing their

Pentaxes at you. It is quite unsettling for the dreamer, it is like being in a commemorative confabulation of David Lean clips, you have been comfily thinking to yourself: I like this, this is *Brief Encounter*, when we get to Reading I shall ask that nice woman in the pill-box hat to come and have a toasted cake, and then suddenly it is *Lawrence of Arabia*, what are all those armed fanatics doing in that field, are we about to be derailed and mopped up, should I jump off now or wait till we get to the River Kwai?

The fanatics were of course steam-buffs. They were not there because we were not being pulled by the 4-6-0, but the 4-6-0 thing got coupled on at Didcot, and thereafter anything in a field went mad. Cows ran, because steam rolled towards them, and they had never seen steam before, and if you are a cow and you see something you haven't seen before, the smart thing to do is run. This is quite upsetting for the passenger; you want to shout "It's only steam!", but it is no use, the milk is already curdling in the udder. Horses ran, too, and rabbits, and pheasants, and for all I know the more unstable varieties of insect. To be honest, it gave me a certain sense of power: I may be a man, but I do not often feel that I have dominion over all the beasts of the field, some of them are quite large, but they are not as large as the Nunney Castle.

All this was before the fanatics appeared. After the fanatics appeared, who had dominion over

whom suddenly changed. When the steam-engine chuffed by, the fanatics in the field did not run away from it, they ran towards it. Worse, whenever we stopped, the fanatics would descend upon us, asking questions we could not answer. They wanted to know how she had responded to this incident, how she had coped with that curve, but we could not tell them. We were just having a nice day out. They would have given their eye-teeth to have been travelling with us, but they could not, they had not been invited; sick for steam, they stood in tears amid the alien corn, watching the unbuffs chug by. I tried to be friendly at Moreton-in-Marsh, where Nunney Castle stopped to be watered and a thousand fanatics sprang from every holt and heath, and I said to one bloke, "Here's a funny thing, it doesn't go diddle-dee, diddle-dum, the way they used to," and I thought he was going to brain me with his 400mm telephoto, until his wife got between us and explained that the diddle stuff had nothing to do with steam, it was all about rails. I thought they were a bit unreasonable, all we were was part of the train; a birdwatcher wouldn't thump a ring-tailed plover for not knowing it was a ring-tailed plover.

Astonishing, really: I used to take this exact train to Oxford, a mere 30 years ago, and I never thought it was anything special, it was just something that got you back after the college was shut because there was a leaf on the Didcot points, and left black smuts on your shirt.

Parading our modesty

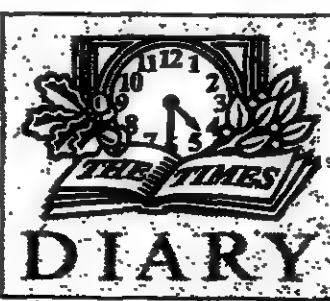
After the American parades in New York and Washington, Britain's Gulf war tribute takes place with a procession through the City of London next week. It is billed as a "welcome home" rather than a victory celebration, and details have been kept almost as secret as war operations. Arrangements were finalised only last week for the low-key event, in which 750 service personnel, led by General Sir Peter de la Billière and Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, will march past the Mansion House.

Unlike the Falklands parade of 1982, the event will include no military vehicles. However, in recognition of the importance of the air battle, the RAF will mount a flypast featuring 28 Tornados, 22 helicopters, six Jaguars, four Panthers and four Buccaneers.

The salute will be taken by the Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip. The Prince and Princess of Wales, John Major, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown will be on the Mansion House platform. Mrs Thatcher has been invited, too.

Every active unit will be represented, although only a tiny proportion of the 34,000 British service personnel involved in the desert war will be present. However, some are already questioning why the government is playing down the event. "I don't believe the London parade should be the same size as the American one," says Simon Weston, the British serviceman who sustained bad skin burns during the Falklands conflict. "But don't forget more British forces were sent to the Gulf than the Falklands. This parade should be at least as large as that of 1982."

One delicate matter which almost marred the previous parade will, however, not arise. In 1982 Sir Christopher Leaver, the then Lord



Mayor of London, was criticised for attempting to exclude disabled servicemen from the Falklands march. Injured soldiers will be absent this time — but for the best of reasons. A spokesman for Sir Alexander Graham, the Lord Mayor of London, says: "It is not that we don't want them, but the defence ministry tells us that all men injured in the Gulf have already recovered."

● The National Theatre yesterday had to postpone by a week its production of Webster's *The White Devil* after one of the leading actors quit because he found the part too much of a strain at his age. Robert Eddison, aged 83, was to have played the cardinal, but has been replaced by the "considerably younger" Tristram Jellinek, who will open in the role next Tuesday. Eddison was resting yesterday but Elspeth Crichton, his agent for 32 years, said: "So many performances in such a big part would have been too stressful. He's not this far from retirement. He's not the type."

Solemn note

It is the death of Claudio Arrau means that 18 months of work by the Royal Philharmonic Society, which aimed to present the pianist with its prestigious gold medal, has ended in failure. On Friday, only five days after his death, Dietrich

Fischer-Diskan, a fellow recipient of the award, was due to hand over the medal to the pianist at a recital in Düsseldorf. Only last month Sir Michael Tippett, another winner, had agreed to do the honours in New York, but was thwarted by the pianist's failing health.

Arrau would have joined a celebrated line-up of previous winners, including Elgar, Rachmaninov, and Yehudi Menuhin. Arrangements are now being made for the medal to be presented posthumously to his children.

More champers?

The great and the good of the art world are working overtime this week. With the Queen opening the Sackler gallery at the Royal Academy on Monday, the Tate had to postpone its opening party for the Constable exhibition by 24 hours until last night. That, in turn, meant clashing



ing with yesterday's preview of the new Micro gallery in the yet-to-be-opened Sainsbury wing at the National Gallery.

The clash was preferable, however, to competing with tonight's big affairs, the opening of the T.T. Tsai gallery of Chinese art by the Prince of Wales at the Victoria and Albert museum and the Royal College of Art postgraduate exhibition. Nor was tomorrow night

an option, for that sees the opening at the Hayward Gallery of Richard Long's *Walking in Circles*. For all the gloom and doom about the recession, has London's art world ever seen such a week of frenetic and high-quality activity?

No smear

Hege's comment about history repeating itself will surely not be lost on Boris Yeltsin. The man who on the eve of today's presidential elections fell foul of a Kremlin-inspired smear campaign, might well recall the circumstances which elevated him to power six years ago. He and Gorbachev were still close allies then, and a campaign was launched against Victor Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow City party committee, and Chernenko's chosen successor.

After months of rumours, Grishin was forced to resign in Yeltsin's favour. The irony of history repeating itself is not lost on Dominic Lieven, of the Russian studies department at the London School of Economics, although he thinks the outcome this time could be different. "Whereas smear campaigns were effective in 1985, when Soviet politics was a closed world, I do not think they work now. They are counter-productive when dealing with an electorate of millions," he says. Yeltsin, for one, will be hoping Lieven is right.

● One pit bull terrier at least is immune from the government's new regulations on muzzle-wearing. Going by its kennel club name of *Architectonic Bitch*, the bronze statue of the animal sits in the housing department of Edinburgh city council. "I suppose it would be a health hazard if it fell off its plinth and landed on someone's foot," says a council spokesman. "The tail is also rather sharp, particularly if you walk into it." That obviously explains why the beast is kept in a glass case.



RUFFLED EMU FEATHERS

The Chancellor of the Exchequer leaves Luxembourg early for a Commons vote on pit bull terriers. In his absence the French finance minister is able to claim without instant refutation that the British government has accepted the Delors compromise on European monetary union. A few hours later, a paper to a group of Conservative academics by a 23-year old nonentity leaks. The prime minister is duly forced to his feet in the Commons to deny that his party is divided over European monetary union. The tale is reminiscent of a synopsis for a lesser Jeffrey Archer novel. The term "accident-prone" seems too mild for a government so embarrassed – or at least a parliamentary process so completely dotty.

In reality, the government's broad attitude towards the European monetary system is reasonably coherent. It does not want a single European currency run by a central European bank. Although it is willing to pretend that it might accept such a system one day – after some notional convergence of Europe's domestic economies – its senior members balk at the loss of policy discretion involved. The prime minister's own alternative of a parallel currency system based on the "hard ecu" has so far failed to fly.

For the foreseeable future, EMU must therefore be opposed for Britain. The government need not decide until December whether to accept the Delors compromise, allowing the rest of the EC to forge its own uncertain union. Yet ministers have no wish to appear anti-European, which (so they have been persuaded) did such damage to Britain's residual European interests during the 1980s. So Norman Lamont smiles in Luxembourg where Mrs Thatcher would have frowned. Phrases such as sovereignty which offend the rest of Europe are outlawed. Anti-communautaire sentiments are dressed up in communautaire language.

In a world where nobody was out to cause trouble nor pursue self-interest, such a position might hold. But politics is not so

gentle. Patrick Robertson, the secretary of the Bruges Group, is listened to not for what he says but for the interests his views are thought to reflect. He encapsulates the suspicions of those who are not reconciled to Mrs Thatcher's defeat and the changed emphasis on European policy that went with it. These suspicions are inevitably fuelled by incidents such as that on Monday night in Luxembourg.

Pierre Bérégovoy, the French foreign minister who pulled the rug on Mr Lamont, may have innocently misunderstood. But he was bound to be suspected of making trouble, given the continued determination of French governments to ensure that the EC dances to its tune and thus to destabilise any British rapprochement with Germany. Mr Major's friendly meeting with Chancellor Kohl at the weekend must have pained the traditionalists in the Quai d'Orsay.

Whether France's interpretation is confirmed or denied, the British government is weakened by the confusion. Contrast Germany, where Hans Tietmeyer, the vice-president elect of the Bundesbank, made a speech yesterday casting grave doubts on the purpose of monetary union without political union, without anyone questioning his government's good faith.

On the basis of Mr Major's performance so far, his reaction is likely to be "action this day". A speech on neo-Majorism and Europe will be drafted. A policy initiative will be launched, an in-depth study leaked. Yet, as Dr Tietmeyer's remarks indicate, the thrust of British policy is right. The government has at least six months before it needs to clarify whether or not this policy is compatible with Delors. In the meantime, its current line is the only one that will hold the Conservative party together. Mr Major has no better hole to go to. His interests and his party's are best served not by an attempt to hit his way out of trouble but by the patient application of a straight bat.

RUSSIA RISKS DEMOCRACY

Whether or not Boris Yeltsin wins outright in today's Russian presidential election, the true victor throughout the Soviet Union will be democracy. Even if he polls less than 50 per cent and must submit to a run-off a fortnight hence, Mr Yeltsin's example has forced his five rivals to campaign in earnest. Public obedience to democracy is fast becoming obligatory for Russian politicians. The other two candidates who matter, the former Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, and the former Soviet interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, are engaged in the new politics. Their competing platforms evolved with little overt support from President Gorbachev.

This election is a big advance on previous Soviet experiments in democracy. At the elections for the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies only two years ago, a third of the seats were reserved for "public" (Communist party-affiliated) organisations, while electoral commissions ensured that most of the other candidates were Communists. Despite defeats for many unpopular apparatchiks, the party controlled some 85 per cent of the Congress which elected Mr Gorbachev to the Soviet presidency.

In the Russian Federation's elections just over a year ago, the grip of the party apparatus was markedly weaker. Despite a nominal majority of Communists, the informal opposition grouping, Democratic Russia, could muster enough votes to elect Mr Yeltsin as president of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. He has turned its Moscow "White House" into a power base able to compete with the Kremlin for the first time since 1917.

The next stage in the democratic process was precipitated by Mr Gorbachev's spring referendum on his plans for a new Union treaty. In the Russian Federation, a large majority endorsed Mr Yeltsin's proposal for direct presidential elections. The "nine-plus-one" agreement between the Soviet govern-

ment and a group of republics, led by Mr Yeltsin, paved the way for a transfer of substantial powers to the republics.

This has raised the stakes for today's election. Fear of alienating a Yeltsin who could expect to wield real authority with a popular mandate has restrained the Soviet state and party propaganda machine. Some of Mr Gorbachev's associates have tried to smear Mr Yeltsin, either with reminders of his Communist past, or with claims that he might have become corrupt. The mud has not stuck. Despite doubts about his calibre, the electorate seems disposed to give the sometime politburo member from Sverdlovsk the benefit of the doubt.

With the return of some food to the shops, a breath of reconciliation between reformist Communists and radical democrats has blown through Moscow. Despite violations of human rights in Nagorno Karabakh, the Baltic states and elsewhere, the desire of the Soviet leadership to obtain Western credits is so strong that real concessions are in prospect. Mr Yeltsin as Russian president would keep up this momentum.

How can a Gorbachev function with a Yeltsin at his shoulder? Personally, the two could co-exist. But in practice the Russo-Soviet relationship is bound to be affected by this election. If Mr Bakatin outdistances the more cautious Mr Ryzhkov for second place, the party's bluff will have been called. Mr Gorbachev may then yield to an accelerated programme for democratic capitalism in one republic.

If Mr Ryzhkov takes Mr Yeltsin to a second round, the Soviet president may conclude that radicalism has run out of steam. But Mr Gorbachev would be unwise to underestimate the forces he has set in motion. The Russian electorate has a real choice. The rest of the Union will expect no less when, no later than 1995, the Soviet president submits himself to what should be a properly democratic re-election.

GLORIOUS PATRONAGE

The arts lobby is known in government circles as second only to the universities for the decibel count of its whinnies. Yet despite dire predictions of doom, last year was one of the most productive and popular ever for West End theatre. Now 1991 is proving an *annus mirabilis* of activity in the fine arts.

Tonight, the Victoria and Albert Museum opens its new Chinese collection, courtesy of £1.25 million from T. T. Tsui. Yesterday the National Gallery celebrated the redecoration of its Agnew room, following the Annenberg rooms earlier this year. Last night also the Tate Gallery launched its great Constable show, sponsored by Barclays Bank. Earlier in the week, the Sackler gallery was opened at the Royal Academy. In a fortnight's time, the Sainsbury family will present its glorious "wing" to the National Gallery. Next door the Heinz family is pouring £2 million into the National Portrait Gallery. Even the British Museum, not notably progressive in matters commercial, recently opened new Japanese galleries and will unveil a refurbished Oriental gallery next year.

These delights are made possible by the generosity of private individuals or private corporations. The public sector had little to do with them, save for an occasional bit of tax relief. They appear nowhere on the government's annual returns for arts spending and will be discounted by the lobbyists as commercial froth, money spent on public access rather than on artists or performers. Yet the sum total of human happiness must surely show a highly positive balance.

Two conclusions can be drawn. First, it is untrue to claim, as arts administrators still

do, that Britain is barren soil in which to plant hopes of private sponsorship. True, most of the above gifts came from overseas, but not all did. And what is wrong with foreigners' money? The Royal Academy, one of the liveliest patrons of the arts, continues to receive no public funds. It thrives by assiduously courting members' subscriptions and corporate donations.

The second conclusion is that success goes to those institutions that work at it. The great London museums and galleries have been through troubled times over the past five years. Root cause of the trouble has been the struggle to resolve the conflict between what were subsidised private research academies and what are great public display collections. Battles between factions have riven the Victoria and Albert and Natural History museums, and may yet consume the energies of the British Museum. These institutions have not been helped in uniting their split personalities by an absence of declared government objectives for the public money donated to them.

Clearly both research and display require money and money is available to those that seek it. In each of this month's cases, assiduous chairmen and directors showed a talent for asking and getting that which eluded their predecessors. They must continue to do so. What was once a sinecure for the genteel is now serious business. The excitement of the present boom is that public subsidy and private donation seem jointly able to improve the conservation and presentation of Britain's world renowned collections.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Assessing value of crime statistics

From the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Sir, I must take issue with your leader ("Criminal nonsense", June 7) which complains, quite wrongly, that the quarterly release of crime statistics issued by the Metropolitan Police represents "an increasingly crude bid for more public money".

Value for money and the need to work within tightly constrained resources is of paramount importance to us, and it was a prime topic at a conference of all my senior staff recently. For example, we have taken a lead in this financial year by seeking no more police officers, but only civil staff to release police officers for operational duties.

You appear to suggest that future publicity sought by police should be limited to "non-trivial" crime. You, Sir, were a member of the Home Office working group on the fear of crime which recommended, in December 1989, that the police service should make every effort to put the more sensational crimes in context, explaining how rare they were and thereby discouraging sensationalist reporting. Your suggestion would quite simply serve the opposite purpose.

You also make the suggestion – to which I am not unsympathetic – that we should not bundle all reported crime into one total figure which has limited meaning. I shall be delighted to do this, secure in the knowledge that you are seeking the agreement of the rest of the media not to add up all the various categories of crime and highlight the result.

I also look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with *The Times* deflecting the accusations of those who will complain that fewer figures and the writing down of

thousands of victims' experiences as "trivial" are simply a means of hiding our embarrassment over rising crime figures.

Technology will soon be at a point where detailed crime figures for any area and any category of crime will be available at the touch of a button. No doubt you will expect us to provide all the information we reasonably can to reporters and to others who ask, even if we do not publish them regularly ourselves.

The Metropolitan Police Service reacted to the working group's report by significantly improving the quality of information released every quarter. This involves a full briefing and discussion session for reporters with the commander of our Community Involvement and Crime Branch and our statistical adviser. This has been invaluable in maintaining a dialogue about the realities of crime and reducing the fear of crime.

Far from "wiping out" the views expressed by the chief constable of Gloucestershire, Mr Albert Pacey, we were echoing his note of caution about giving the same weight to figures concerning minor and serious offences. We have risen to the challenge of giving a better and fuller explanation of crime figures, and we are making every effort short of the self-censorship which *The Times*, paradoxically, is advocating. In this day and age, hiding discomfort behind a veil of secrecy is not a course one would expect to be promoted by a great newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
PETER IMBERT, Commissioner,
Metropolitan Police Service,
New Scotland Yard,
Broadway, SW1.
June 7.

Rights and needs of travelling people

From Lady Plowden

Sir, I was delighted to read your report and leading article, "Fellow travellers" (both June 4). A more positive attitude was displayed than has hitherto often been the case.

Since the mid-1960s I have witnessed tremendous progress in the educational provision for Gypsy children. Their complete integration, as is now the practice in many schools, will give to future generations of travellers the tools to participate fully in the life of this country, secure in the pride of their identity and ancestry.

There is no room for complacency, however. Many travellers continue to experience severe hardship and deprivation of statutory services. Reports recently commissioned by the Department of the Environment on Gypsy site provision contain most useful and practical advice for local authorities on promoting understanding through-out society.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET PLOWDEN (President),
Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers,
Moot House, The Stow,
Harlow, Essex.
June 6.

From Mr M. J. Treble

Sir, Your leader places the blame, at least in part, on an "uncomprehending society" for the "public ignorance" suffered by Gypsies. The 1968 Caravan Sites Act, which the leader describes as the central legislation designed to solve the Gypsy problem, defines those to whom it relates as "persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin". No romance of "extraordinary tribe" in that!

The Act places a duty on county councils to provide adequate

accommodation (caravan sites) for such persons "residing in or resorting to their area". It is not helpful that after 20 years the expressions "nomadic habit of life", "residing in" and "resorting to" have still not been authoritatively interpreted.

It is even more regrettable that so many local authorities still fall far short in their statutory obligation. The secretary of state for the environment has powers of direction which he can invoke if he is not satisfied with progress.

The Act's aim was exactly what the leader commends: co-existence rather than assimilation. Let any who wish to be assimilated be welcomed into ordinary society through the front door. But on the other hand those who wish to stay outside should be assisted to do so, as prescribed by the Act.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TREBLE,
Tanners, Church Road,
North Curry, Taunton, Somerset.

From Mr Peter L. G. Bateman

Sir, You omit to mention the plight of the Showmen's Guild travellers, who are specifically excluded from the protection of the 1968 Act.

Not only do they need secure tenure of land, for which they are usually willing to pay, but facilities to store, repair and maintain their fairground equipment during the winter, and thereby provide our countryside with its traditional fairground attractions in summer.

These travellers are responsible citizens whose children attend schools and whose activities seldom conflict with local communities.

Yours sincerely,
PETER L. G. BATEMAN,
Poyneys, The Limes,
Felbridge, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Conditions in Kenya

From the High Commissioner of Kenya

Sir, You state (leading article, "The death of kings", June 4) that "two governments in Africa (my italics) have set its face more firmly against the 'pluralism, public accountability and respect for the rule of law' for which Mr Hurd called than Kenya".

Perhaps 200,000 refugees now crowding across our borders from three neighbouring countries to escape ethnic terror and violence would beg to disagree. We (and they) are only too well aware of the dangers when the rule of law irretrievably breaks down.

As for accountability, international bodies, including the World Bank, have commended Kenya for sustaining economic growth and adopting the tough adjustment measures necessary for economic success.

In fact Kenya is one of the few African nations where *per capita* incomes have risen steadily in real terms over the past few years – and one of the few African countries, too, which has never defaulted in its debt repayments.

Consequently our economy is now undergoing fundamental change with new policy initiatives leading to increased liberalisation, a deepening of the financial base and the growth of capital markets. This requires greater rather than less accountability, in an increasingly destabilised region.

We believe that pluralism can flourish within a one-party political system – albeit a system responsive to change and reform. We have initiated these changes.

At the same time we have not said that we will never return to multi-party politics, only that if we do so it must be at a time of our own choosing, and on the basis of the cohesive, broadly non-tribal, society in Kenya that we are now seeking to build.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. KOSGEL,
Kenya High Commissioner,
45 Portland Place, W1.

Quote, unquote

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, I hope that your readers will not attach too much importance to the assertion made by you in your article of June 6 that Mrs Thatcher has been "marginalised" in the Conservative Research Department's *Campaign Guide 1991*, which I edited, because she is "referred to only ten times".

In fact, she is quoted ten times: references to her are much more numerous. Your diarist, who believes that such things are significant, omitted to mention the number of times Mr Major is quoted or, in his terminology, referred to. The answer is 16.

The introduction to this *Guide* ends with the confident prediction that when the next edition is written it will show "how the Conservative Party, under its new leader, strengthened and carried forward the achievements of one of the greatest of all Britain's prime ministers".

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR COOKE, Director,
Conservative Political Centre,
32 Smith Square,
Westminster, SW1.

Hidden benefits

From Mr K. S. Sutherland

Sir, As my train approached Euston the other day, the guard announced, very clearly: "For the benefit of all passengers, the buffet-bar is now closed".

Yours faithfully,
K. S. SUTHERLAND,
The Old Post House, Upton Grey,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Business letters, page 29

British way of death

From the President of the National Association of Funeral Directors

Sir, In your report of May 27, headed "Undertakers try to bury reputation for greed", you state that "in recent years the Office of Fair Trading and the Consumer's Association have criticised undertakers for high prices and failing to tell clients the true cost of funerals". May I point out that the OFT report stated that 90 per cent of the clients surveyed who had used member firms of this association were either satisfied or very satisfied with the service received from their funeral director.

Whilst this is no matter for complacency, I would suggest that there is no other service industry with such a high favourable response from their clients. The OFT report also states that 0.02 per cent of clients surveyed felt that they had reason for complaint; this figure included those whose complaint was aimed at the cemetery, the crematorium, the minister or any other sub-contractors that they have to employ on our clients' behalf.

Our association has a disciplinary and conciliatory committee which meets quarterly and investigates 20 or 30 complaints per year. This figure should be considered in conjunction with the 650,000 funerals per year in Britain, of which our members are concerned with nearly 600,000.

Yours sincerely,
PAT BENNETT, President,
National Association of Funeral Directors,
618 Warwick Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

From Mr John S. Pidgeon

Sir, May I draw your readers' attention to the following comparisons, based on figures supplied by the Central Statistical Office and from our own records.

An employee in the manufacturing sector today receives 2.45 weeks of his average gross pay to cover the funeral director's fee. In 1950, it took 3.8 weeks; in 1960, 3.27; and in 1970, 2.8. So, in relation to pay, funerals are coming down.

Since 1950 average wages have risen by 31.3 times, funeral directors' charges by 21.6 times and council charges for a new grave by 49.6 times. Cremation costs have risen by 41.3 times since 1960, even though they are subsidised by the rates.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. PIDGEON (Director),
James Pidgeon & Son Ltd.,
539 Cowbridge Road East,
Victoria Park, Cardiff.

London's government

From the Chairman of the Association of London Authorities

Sir, As Michael Heseltine prepares to receive responses to the first two green papers on local government reform (report, June 10), it is sad that he has failed to listen to the growing call from all sides for London's problems to be addressed.

His green paper on local government structural reform devoted less than 80 words to London. Yet it is obvious that serious attention must be given to the need for strategic government in London.

The leader of Westminster City Council (letters, June 10) is in a

minority among Londoners, including many of his Tory colleagues, in believing that everything is fine. The reality is that our congested and inefficient system of transport and planning is losing London its competitive edge as a single Europe draws nearer.

A strategic authority for the capital is the only way to give London both the collective voice it desperately needs and the strategic planning essential to its future. Such an authority would be lean and efficient. But, crucially, it would be directly accountable to Londoners.

The present myriad of organisations and government departments with responsibility for

Londonwide planning is ideal for those who want to make sure that nobody is made accountable for the current problems in the capital.

Mr Heseltine will receive responses to his green paper by the end of this week. The Association of London Authorities will tell him that London needs an elected strategic authority. But he doesn't need to say it. He need only leave his office for a while and see the capital as Londoners see it.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET HODGE, Chairman,
Association of London Authorities,
36 Old Queen Street, SW1.
June 10.

Facing up to beards

From Mr Francis Wilford-Smith

Sir, Once again we noble bearded fellows have to endure the petty-fogging shavers' peevish view that beards are "statements of vanity" (Philip Howard, June 7).

Vanity? Who is more guilty of it – the man who grows an honest beard as nature intended? Or the creature so vainly glorious that he is prepared to sacrifice some 18 solid months of his allotted lifespan peering into looking-glasses and scraping his face so that he can walk amongst us, brandishing his wretched features in the nude.

Yours faithfully,
F. WILFORD-SMITH,
Bentleys Farm, Bosbury,
Ledbury, Herefordshire.
June 8.

Too young to fight?

From Colonel A. L. King-Harman

Sir, Further to your letters (May 24, June 3) on young men being sent on active service overseas, my forbear, the Hon James King, joined HMS Sanspareil in 1797 as a volunteer first class. He was 11 years old. By the time he was 18 he had served in the Carnatic, Bittern, Jamaica, Unicorn, Eddon and Minotaur, being at sea continuously in the Atlantic, North Sea and the West Indies. He remained at sea throughout the Napoleonic wars, retiring as an admiral aged 29.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. KING-HARMAN,
Osne Manor,
Sharnbrook,
Bedford.
June 3.

Gatt and consumers

From the Chief Executive of the Consumers' Association and the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, The letter which you printed from Nicholas Hildyard and others (May 27), deploring the "self-interest" of multi-national corporations who advocated "restored impetus" to the Gatt negotiations, is special pleading dressed up as consumer activism.

We, together with other mainstream consumer organisations in this country – those with a clear remit to promote all the interests of all consumers – strongly endorse the principles of the Gatt and of world trade liberalisation, and we have made our views known at the highest level within the UK government, the institutions of the EC and the Gatt secretariat.

In this we are joined by consumer organisations, not just within the

European Community (through the Bureau of European Consumer Unions), but by the International Organisation of Consumer Unions, representing 175 consumer organisations in 63 countries.

We have adopted this position not because we are unconcerned about issues such as intellectual property and the Codex Alimentarius (food safety and quality) – we have made extremely detailed and constructive criticisms of Gatt proposals in the latter area – but because consumers have a huge economic interest in trade liberalisation. Protectionism means higher prices, less choice and, ultimately, fewer jobs as the world economy contracts.

Without the multilateralism of the Gatt, world trade will not simply

shrivel up and disappear (although there will be less of it). But it will become even more dominated by regional trading blocs and bilateral deals dictated by the most economically powerful nations – leaving the developing countries on the sidelines, at great cost to their economies as well as to consumers in developed countries.

In particular, the Gatt gives us the best chance we have of reducing the oppressive over-subsidisation of agriculture in the USA and EC, which is wrecking developing country agriculture through the dumping of surpluses on world markets and through the maintenance of import barriers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BEISHON, Chief Executive,
Consumers' Association,
MAURICE HEALY, Director,
National Consumer Council,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1.
May 30.

Maggot-life in the Big Apple



BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

was Hitler's suicide weapon. Why? He really convinced him was that only one bullet had been fired from the chamber.

The important thing about the Hitler diaries story is to keep every thing in proportion — not so that the deceptions and scam look less fantastic, but so that their full gloriolous dementia can be properly relished. What is inevitably lost in the translation to the screen is the presence of a level-headed narrator who can stand in the foreground to give a sense of scale; and who can keep reiterating: "Yes, this really happened. Clever. People paid fortunes for worthless rubbish. The danger is that dramatizing the folly may make it seem more credible, when the real fascination of the story is that you have to keep banging your head on the wall to remind yourself it is true.

LYNNE TRUES

LYNNE TRISS

most it is only Sylvia McNair as Ilia who comes near sustaining perfection. She has, of course, the ideal qualities for this role: a tone of purity, radiance and loveliness, and a voice that can slip around the phrases with the ease and grace of water. The risk must be that she is getting to know her way around the part a bit too well, and perhaps to exaggerate the breathless wonder: her aria at the start of the third act was slowed almost

PAUL GRIFFITHS

▲ MISERY (18): Once-again Kathy

SALES as the number one item forthcoming in 1994 (legend novelist Larsen Coen). Spiritually thrills from Stephen King's current director, Rob Reiner
Carnegie Pavilion Street (071-630 0681) Odors: Kensington (071-632 0644) Mezzanine (071-830 6111)
Swiss Cottage (071-722 9505) Prince Charles (071-437 8181) Screen on Baker Street (071-235 2172) Wembley (071-732 3503/3524).

NIGHT SUN (12): Toilet's Father
Sargus adored by the Tevian Brothers
A modest performance by Julien
Bands as the monk struggling with earthly sins, but the images glow.
Fancor (071-857 8402) Minima (071-858 4270).

[illegible]

THE SAME OLD MOON: Irish girl discovers sex, literature and political love.

THE TOP GIRL: St. Carol Church's

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 111) ... ☐ **Miss Saigon: Theatre**
☐ **Royal, Drury Lane** (771-836
 001) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap:**

☐ Martin's (071-836)
☐ 43) . . . ☐ The Phantom of the
 Opera: His Majesty's (071-836)
☐ 44) . . . ☐ The Rehearsal: Gerrick
 (071-379 6107) . . . ☐ Return to the
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 598) . . . ☐ The Rocky Horror
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☐ 46) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife

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GIPLS, 70: Successfully staged

Richester last year, the Kander and musical enters the West End. Dora Bryan leading the cast. Reviews begin tonight, and the musical opens on Monday (see feature, p. 13).

Devil Theatre, Strand, London
0 (071-498 2287), 7.30pm.

WRIGHT/SANSOVA BALLET: The company's return season offers the new Wright/Sansova production of *Les Ballets*, with Marlon Tait and Daniel Tait taking the leading roles in this new production.

dan Quartet, Alderburgh musicians-in-residence, perform quartets by Brahms and Beethoven, together with *Pieces on Jewish Folk Themes* by Georgian composer Sukhian Shikharidze.

Peacock Concert Hall, Alderburgh
8.45-9.45, 6pm.

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notils

Still, *nil humanum a me alienum*. Those who get their notions of New York's finest from *Kojak*, or from other quasi-realistic pictures of magisterial life in the Big Apple, could do worse than see *Cops*. Like *Dispatches*, it is derived from interviews with those who know their jungle. That means it is somewhat loosely constructed. Indeed, until two cops are shot dead while preparing to tick off a double-parked driver, the evening mostly consists of anecdotes, told to a police by his more hardened com-

ONE of the first things to be said about *Selling Hitler* (Stromes) is that it goes against all known stereotypes of Journalism. Journalists are usually depicted in drama series as cynical types with world-weary expressions who will gladly commit to print the most dreadful guff provided nobody expects them to *sell* it.

How unlike Ger Heideemann, the real-life *Stern* journalist at the centre of the infamous Hitler Diaries debacle of 1983. As depicted by Robert Harris in his 1986 book (on which the 'drama series' is based), Heideemann seems not only to have lacked this essential quality of cynicism, but presumably did not possess any limiting

PORTY years ago Glyndebourne restored this opera to the British repertoire, but we still await a production worthy of its status as a festival, and the format of the piece. For example, this season's Glyndebourne staging, revived this season by Stephen Langridge, aims for a kind of Japanese minimalism, with the stage an empty space of light and much of the music delivered by lone soloists straight to the audience. But the effect is slow, flat and symmetrical, and rather too self-conscious in its delicacy and elegance.

Perhaps the main problem is that the singers are left so much on their own through long stretches of recitative and aria, without a rhetoric of gesture such as existed in the 18th century. They have nothing to do but sing, as if these high, downy instruments were their natural behaviour, and so the drama is softened and weakened. They also have very little support when their singing is at the height of its quality, and in this

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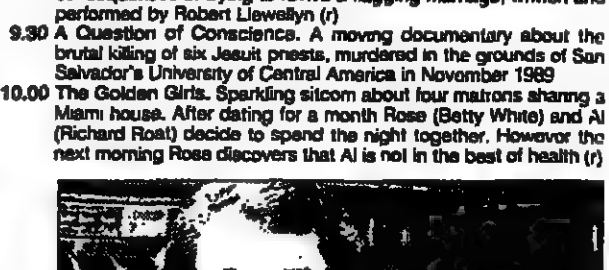
RADIO 2

RADIO 5

STC

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily
- 9.25 Schools
- 12.00 The Parliament Programme
- 12.30 Business Daily
- 1.00 Sesame Street (r)
- 2.00 Gallery. Arts quiz hosted by George Melly, with regular team captains Meggie Hambling and Frank Whiffery (r)
- 2.30 Film: The Vagabond King (1956). Polished but lifeless musical comedy, the Rudolf Firmi opera about the life and loves of the 15th-century French poet and scoundrel François Villon, played by the Maltese lion, Orsello. With Kathryn Grayson and Rita Moreno. Directed by Michael Curtiz
- 4.10 The Three Stooges: A Bird in the Hand (b/w) Moe, Larry and Curly try to recoup their fortunes by hiring themselves out as peripheragers at the home of a mad scientist
- 4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Quiz show hosted by William G. Stewart
- 5.00 Famous for 4 Minutes. Members of the public talk about their hopes and fears
- 5.05 The Opened Window Show. The American discussion series looks at how to deal with your former partner's new partner
- 6.00 A Different World. American sitcom set on a college campus
- 6.30 Best of The Word. Terry Christian, Amanda De Cadenet and Michelle Collins present highlights from the first series of The Word. They include cult comedian Vic Reeves, his pal Bob Mortimer and singer Chris Isaak, plus music from the LA Lakers and the Farm
- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext) Weather
- 7.50 Party Political Comedian from a Conservative party politician
- 8.00 Brookside. Sturdy Mersy-side soap. (Teletext)
- 8.30 Dispatches.
● CHOICE: Left-right feuds used to be the prerogative of the Labour party but in its final edition of the current series Dispatches shows how the disease has spread to the Tories. A report on the state of the far right suggests that the fall of Mrs Thatcher had done little to dampen its ardour. A defector makes sinister claims about the right organising as a party within a party to win power and extend its influence. Members of the party's liberal wing are demanding former action by Conservative Central Office. The rise of the right is attributed to its success in gaining control of the student vote at youth sections of the party during the early Thatcher years. There is an analysis of the right-wing take-over of the Conservative party in Scotland and a look at whether the ensuing "civil war" will be repeated elsewhere as John Major tries to move the Conservatives nearer the centre ground of British politics
- 9.15 The Real McCoy. A dramatic re-creation about the consequences of trying to revive a forgotten magazine, written and



Cought in the political firing line: Rick Maywell as B'Stard (10-30pm)

10.30 The New Strawber: Who Shot Alan B'Stard? A repeat of the irreverent Maurice Gran and Laurence Marks comedy about the loathsome Tory MP, Alan B'Stard (Rick Maywell). The police are investigating B'Stard's shocking and confusing actions as being asked in the House. Steve Nallon plays Mrs Thatcher. (Teletext)

11.00 Manhattan Cable. More bizarre excerpts from New York's three public access cable channels, including an edition of the *Gay Dating Game*.

11.45 Film: Monalisa (The Lost Jewels) (1981, b/w). Satyajit Ray's only short story forms part of the trilogy of films he made from the short stories of Rabindranath Tagore. A village teacher (Govinda Chakraverty) out for a walk comes across a man sitting silently on some steps. They strike up a conversation and the teacher is told the story of a rich merchant who befriended his wife's mistress (Kamika Muzumdar) to live in a splendid mansion in the village of Mantipur. However Monalisa seems indifferent to her husband's love and generosity and is instead obsessed by the accumulation of jewels.

to One 1.50
2.50 Film: 7

[illegible]

10. Guam Theater
11 15 Coffee
Pizza Gourm

KEY SPORTS

- via the Astra and Menapolo satellites.
- BBC Record the World: Race 10.45
- American and European Golf Sent-Fe
- 30 State Arts Tennis Tournament 9.30
- American and Hedges Cricket Highlights
- 10.00 US Open Tennis 12.00 State Arts
- Arts Tournament

GREENSPORT

- via the Astra satellite.
- 10.00m Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 8.00

MTV

- via the Astra satellite.
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The company recently completed the first phase, costing £4 million. Most of the cost is expected to be met by insurance.



Common heritage: the first working-class urban home acquired by the National Trust, No 7 Blyth Grove, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, left, beyond the Edwardian door, Tim Whittaker of the trust browses in a bedroom, top right, and cupboards are stacked with period finds, above

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

Roger Maingot, Maranello's managing director, said yes-

Britain is one of Ferrari's biggest markets with a steady 350 cars sold here annually out of total factory production of about 4,000 a year. Enthusiasts wanting their Ferrari have been faced in the past few years with the choice of waiting in the long queue or paying inflated prices to get the car of their dreams quickly from one of the speculators.

Mr Maingot said that many buyers were ordering their cars simply on the strength of the knowledge that they would be worth more when they left the showroom than when they were ordered, leaving a hefty profit for a clever speculator. The recession has hit the classic car market hard and although Ferraris still command premium prices, profits are much slimmer.

Continued from page 1

Huge expectations have been created this side of the Channel by the change in the government's body language. The word sovereignty has been abolished from the ministerial vocabulary and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, appears to have been teaching courses for ministers on "how

such catkins. Mrs. Gorman (and so that she could live conveniently close) they had set her up in a little love-nest in Downing Street . . . Why, these men had seemed to worship the ground she walked on, cheered her to the rafters and showered her with compliments. Lies, all

MATTHEW PARRIS

Pine: A forest of plastic trees could irrigate the Sahara and transform the lives of millions, according to the idea's inventor. Nick Nuttall examines a remarkable claim

Solution to Puzzle No 18,629

C	L	A	S	S	I	C	I	S	T		C	L	A	D
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- 14 To be comparatively upright can be dull (8).
- 16 Local worker's counter-bid (9).
- 17 Remove from ceiling a slightly old-fashioned lamp (8).
- 19 Run and hide (7).
- 21 Fisherman's claim to have hooked one, perhaps? (7).
- 22 Tolerably good as a feast, it's said (6).
- 24 Government's first opportunity to prepare for office (5).
- 25 Post staff receiving circular letter (5).

Concise Crossword, page 17

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 15 per cent of the competitors at the 1991 London B regional final of The Times Collins Dictationaries Championship.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

ULOTRICHOUS

- a. Woman used**
b. Having woolly hair
c. Dishonest, cheating
- TORCHIER**
a. An upward hump
b. A night escort
c. To twist the arm
- SOEA**
a. The short-billed rail
b. A Persian conifer

c. A step-sister

- FURACIOUS**
a. Extremely angry
b. Thieving
c. Covered with thick fur
- Answers on page 18*

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central and southern England, with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Brighter weather will spread from the west during the morning, reaching Kent and East Anglia around midday. Scattered showers over Wales and western England and Scotland will become heavier during the day. Over Scotland these showers could merge to give longer periods of rain. Outlook: remaining cool

[illegible]^a denotes figures are latest available.

TOURIST RATES		Bank	
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Australia \$	2.31	2.16	
Austria Sch	21.70	20.30	

Belgium Fr	63.40
Canada \$	2.005

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Finland Mk	7.33	6.88	Beds,Herts & Essex	706
France Fr	10.38	9.73	Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	707
Germany Dm	3.08	2.88	West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	708
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Spain Pts	183.00	176.50	W & S Yorks & Dales	717
Sweden Rm	11.00	10.57	N England	718
Switzerland FR	2.55	2.46	Lumford & Lake District	719
UK Sea	7500.00	6700.00	S W Scotland	720
Turkey E	1.76	1.696	W Central Scotland	721
Uganda Dm	81.00	83.00	Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
			E Central Scotland	723

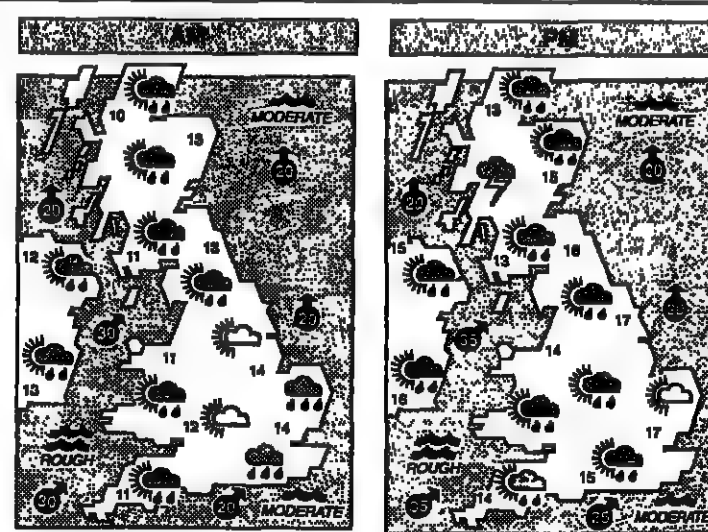
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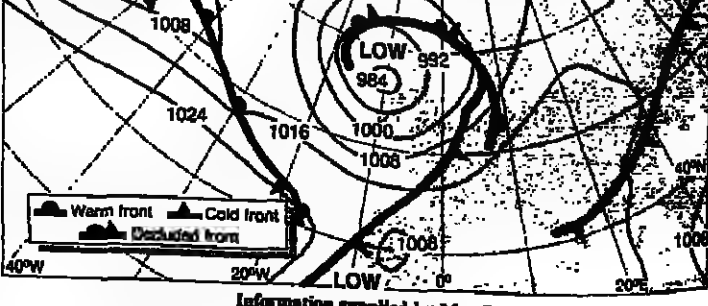
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Blackpool	12 54 r
Bristol	14 57 s
Cardiff	12 54 c
Exeter	12 54 s
Gloucester	12 54 s
Leeds	12 54 s
London	14 57 s
Manchester	12 54 s
Newcastle	12 54 s
Nottingham	12 54 s
Sheffield	12 54 s
Southampton	12 54 s
Stoke-on-Trent	12 54 s
Wolverhampton	12 54 s

Glasgow	11	53		Newcastle	11	53	
Edinburgh	11	52		Plymouth	11	52	

Monday: Highest day temp: Cromer, Norfolk and Lowestoft, Suffolk, 21°C (70°F); **lowest day temp:** Fair Isle, Shetland, 08°C (48°F); **highest rainfall:** Aberdeen, 0.79 in; **highest sunshine:** Harve Bay, Kent, 12.1 hr.



100-32061



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Spurs to consider takeover

THE board and advisers of Tottenham Hotspur are today considering takeover proposals submitted by Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, and Terry Venables, the Spurs manager, in an attempt to secure the future of the debt-ridden football club.

Several proposals are believed to have been submitted, one of which would involve the Venables-Sugar vehicle buying a share stake, taking it over the 30 per cent threshold that triggers a mandatory full bid under rule 9 of the takeover code.

A further indication that the seemingly intractable impasse at Tottenham might soon be coming to an end came with yesterday's appointment of Lowe Bell, a City public relations firm, to replace Trevor Bass Associates, the long-standing PR advisers to the club.

Northern strong

Northern Foods, supplier of convenience and other foods to Britain's largest retail chains, has said trading in the first two months of this financial year was good after the year to end March saw pre-tax profits rise from £90.2 million to £105.4 million. Turnover was £1.19 billion (£1.09 billion). A final dividend of 8.5p (7.25p) makes 14.5p (12.5p) for the year. Operating margins rose from 8.6 per cent to 9.4 per cent.

Meyer down

Meyer International, the timber builders merchant group, reported a fall in pre-tax profits for the year to end March to £36.1 million (£70.8 million). The total dividend is held at 16.5p out of earnings down from 54.8p to 27.5p.

Cowie roles

Tom Cowie, aged 68, chairman and chief executive of the eponymous motor dealer, has split his roles and will be replaced as chief executive by Gordon Hodgson, at present managing director.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6635 (-0.0045)
German mark 2.9452 (-0.0072)
Exchange Index 90.8 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1991.1 (+26.7)
FT-SE 100 2542.8 (+30.7)
New York Dow Jones 2982.62 (+17.22)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24662.59 (+64.21)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
Cable & Wireless 150 1/2 (+120)
Elec Data Process 136 1/2 (+80)
Amersham 943 1/2 (+90)
London Int 254 1/2 (+80)
Rank Org 70 1/2 (+80)
Reuters 837 1/2 (+140)
Campari 314 1/2 (+150)
VJ Lovell 130 1/2 (+80)
Streitwey 353 1/2 (+100)
Allied Lyons 564 1/2 (+140)
Bass 987 1/2 (+90)
Grand Met 726 1/2 (+100)
EMAP 738 1/2 (+120)
Guinness 995 (+90)
Persson 738 1/2 (+120)
British Aerospace 606 1/2 (+90)
FALLS:
Oxford Instruments 232 1/2 (-20)
Manna Deva 195 (-15)
News Corp 375 (-10)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11 1/2%
3-month interbank 11 1/2%
3-month mortgage 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.58-5.59%
30-year bonds 9 1/2%-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.6635
£ DM2.9452
£ Sfr2.5144
£ FFfr.6.5522
£ Yen234.38
£ Index: 97.6
ECU: 16.3636
ECU: 16.3636

GOLD

London: 372.75 pm-371.25
New York: 371.05-371.55

NORTH-SEA OIL

rent (Jul) \$18.00 bbl (\$18.00)
Denote latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

133.1 April 1987=100

Bank of England dashes hopes of cut

Factory price slowdown fails to lower rates

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

HOPES of a cut in interest rates this week were dashed by the Bank of England, despite the publication of better than expected wholesale price figures, which suggested that Britain's inflation was coming back under control.

John Major welcomed the May producer price figures, which showed the annual rate of inflation falling to 6 per cent from 6.2 per cent in April. He told parliament that the government was "well on target" to meet its forecast of 4 per cent inflation by the end of the year.

But the Bank sent the money markets a signal that base rates would not be cut until the middle of next week at the earliest, as officials acknowledged that sterling's recent weakness in the foreign exchanges was again becoming a cause for concern.

The producer price index (PPI) increased by 0.4 per cent in May, to stand 6 per cent above its level a year earlier. This took the annual inflation rate back to its level in the second half of last year, before the unexpected surge of producer prices in January and April.

The Central Statistical Office also revised down the PPI for April, to show a rise of 1 per cent on the month instead of the shocking 1.2 per cent originally reported. Most of the April jump was due to higher excise duties on alcohol and tobacco imposed in the Budget, and part of this effect

was carried over into May. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, the PPI increased by only 0.3 per cent last month and by the same amount in April.

This "underlying" measure of the PPI was 5.5 per cent higher in May than a year earlier, representing the lowest annual increase in this figure since January 1990.

Release of the figures fuelled market hopes of a cut in interest rates on Friday, when May's retail price index (RPI) is due to be released. According to MMS, the financial research group, the City expects the annual increase in the RPI to fall to 5.9 per cent from the 6.4 per cent reported in April.

But the market's hopes were disappointed when the Bank of England entered the money markets in the afternoon to offer the discount houses fixed-rate loans at the present base rate of 11 1/2 per cent for an unusual nine-day period.

Government officials concurred with money market analysts that the Bank's signal had virtually ruled out a cut in base rates before the lending expires. Short-term interest rates market rose rapidly back towards 11 1/2 per cent and short sterling futures fell sharply.

The pound strengthened only slightly, however, to trade at DM2.9452 against a generally weak mark. Sterling slid to \$1.6635 and on the Bank of England's trade-weighted index it closed at 90.6, down 0.2.

According to Ian Harnett of

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, sterling's recent weakness against the dollar was linked to a sharp upward revision of industrial input prices, which was revealed in yesterday's release from the CSO.

Materials and fuels purchased by industry, many of which are internationally traded and priced in dollars, increased by 0.2 per cent in May, but jumped a revised 1.2 per cent in April. The CSO's original estimate of input price inflation in April was only 0.7 per cent.

The big revisions in April's wholesale price statistics inflamed the controversy between the CSO and the Confederation of British Industry over CBI claims that official indicators were exaggerating inflation in the economy.

Yesterday's price figures were described as misleading by John Banham, CBI director general, who said they did not reflect big discounts offered against published price lists by recession-hit companies.

But the CSO insisted that it did ask manufacturers specifically to include discounts when they responded to price questionnaires, adding that a special letter had been sent to firms this month to emphasise this point. Officials said the CBI should urge its members to fill in their forms more accurately, instead of complaining about the figures. A CBI spokesman rejected this suggestion.

Tarmac warns on profits

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Tarmac, Britain's biggest housebuilding company, fell 10p in response to a warning from Sir Eric Pountney, the chairman, that cuts in interest rates were having no impact on the level of new house sales.

At the annual meeting in London, Sir Eric said: "At the time of our results announcement in late April, we were hopeful that confidence would return to our UK markets in time to produce a much better second half than in 1990."

"Since then, we have seen no evidence of such a recovery,

but rather a further deterioration in the trading climate."

Sir Eric said that first-half profits would show a "severe shortfall", compared with the £97.8 million Tarmac made in the first half of last year.

Graham Foster of Nomura Research reduced his forecast for the current year by £35 million to £140 million, compared with the £191 million Tarmac made last year.

In 1988, at the peak of the housing market, Tarmac posted record profits of £393 million. Despite the reduced

forecasts, Tarmac shares recovered in line with the rest of the housebuilding sector to close at 233p, 2p down on the day.

Michael Padley of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the securities house, believes Tarmac is not alone in having been misled by the signs of recovery that were evident in February and March, as falling interest rates coincided with the end of the Gulf war. This recovery, however, was not sustained.

Comment, page 23

Bundesbank fears over Emu

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT



Tietmeyer: sharp attack

HANS Tietmeyer, vice-president of the Bundesbank, launched a sharp attack on moves towards fast European monetary union, saying that Germany would be deprived of "one of the best monetary constitutions in the world".

In a speech at the Institute for the Research of Banking History in Frankfurt, Herr Tietmeyer, who is expected to be appointed Bundesbank president in 1993, said the way towards Emu is a "way without U-turns" and that domestic difficulties required

a more cautious stance on Emu. A single currency, he added, should be introduced only when Europe moves towards full political union.

In what amounted to the most downbeat assessment of Emu by a Bundesbank director and a reflection of increasing scepticism on Emu throughout Germany, Herr Tietmeyer said that monetary union would lead to the complete abandonment of domestic monetary

Bundesbank attack, page 23

Colloquialisms baffle English-speaking Europeans

A spot of bother with the lingo

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

"WE'RE in a bit of a spot. It's a tall order. We're pulling out all the stops but bear with me." Perfectly clear? To British businessmen, perhaps. But to their foreign counterparts? Clear as mud, probably.

According to Bill Reed, UK marketing director of an international management consultants, British businessmen baffle their foreign counterparts with such language. Much-used phrases like "just a tick", "hold on a sec", "with you in a shake" and "back in a flash" all suggest to the British a brief pause, Mr Reed says, but bring total confusion to across the rest of Europe.

Mr Reed will "flesh out" his theory - whatever that means to the rest of Europe - in a speech a week today at the London Language Show, an exhibition at the Barbican Centre. Specialists from the "language industry" will ponder a range

of subjects, including Business Culture Training and the potentially gripping New Humanistic Teaching Methods in Foreign Language Instruction.

In advance of that, Mr Reed, whose company, Canning, teaches managers "How To Communicate in English With Foreigners", says that many colloquial expressions well understood in the UK mean absolutely nothing even to English-speakers from abroad.

Take "bear with me", which Canning says might indicate the presence of a grizzly bear, or might be taken as an invitation to total nudity. "Bear with me" is an over-used phrase which means nothing to the average European. We should translate this into something a bit more basic, like "wait just a moment", which is more easily understood.

Canning, which, with offices in London, Bath, Milan and Tokyo, may well be well-placed to deal with the

problem, advises businessmen to structure their conversations properly. "Whereas the British speak colloquial English," says Mr Reed, "the rest of the world understands 'offshore English'. In offshore English ('right', says Mr Reed) rather than colloquial English ('wrong'), this article should have started: 'This is a difficult situation. You're asking a lot. We're making a special effort but wait a moment.'"

Other wrong phrases, and their right counterparts, include: Get a move on (please hurry). Let me sound you out on this (what do you think of this), and, You've put your finger on it (that's exactly the point).

Mr Reed is clear where the responsibility for improvement lies: "It is really up to us to adapt to them if we want to communicate successfully." Well, precisely. He's put his finger right on. Sorry - that is exactly the point.



French tonic: the £10 a share offered yesterday by LVMH values Anthony Tennant's Guinness at £9.7 billion

LVMH tops up stake in Guinness

By MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

ALMOST 23 million shares in Guinness went through the market yesterday as LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the French luxury goods group, spent more than £200 million in an attempt to top up its holding in the drinks group to the permitted 24 per cent.

Acting under instruction from the French, SG Warburg Securities, the broker, snopped up over 20 million shares at £10 apiece within minutes of announcing its intentions to buy 23.4 million shares. It later lowered its price to 990p, and has said it will stand in the market until June 21 in an effort to acquire the balance.

The Guinness share price closed at 997p, 30p higher on the day. Other drinks shares, such as Allied-Lyons, GrandMet and Bass, surged in sympathy.

LVMH pointed out that the purchase was designed to restore its holding to 24 per cent, the level allowed under cross-holding arrangements. This followed the dilution of its stake by the recent conversion of £242.8 million of Guinness convertible preference and loan stock into equity.

"This is totally routine," said Robert Leon, an LVMH director. "It is being done in perfect accord and co-ordination with Guinness." Anthony Tennant, Guinness chairman, said the company welcomed the move. Guinness holds an effective 24 per cent in LVMH, through a complex arrangement with its partner, Jacques Rober.

LVMH said that it had no intention of purchasing shares beyond the maximum permitted under the agreement with Guinness, and that in making any further purchases in the next 12 months it would not pay more than £10 a share.

Guinness's shares were changing hands at just 400p only two years ago. The £10 paid by the French values the entire group at £9.7 billion.

Stock market, page 26

Marketchief deal ends refinancing speculation

By MATTHEW BOND

WOLFGANG Stolzenberg, a German businessman, has taken full control of Marketchief, the private property company that took over Imry Merchant Developers for £314 million in July 1989.

The news that Mr Stolzenberg had bought Marketchief ends months of speculation about how the Imry takeover was to be refinanced.

In 1989, Mr Stolzenberg took a 25 per cent stake in Marketchief. Yesterday, it was disclosed that he had acquired the remaining 75 per cent owned by Eagle Star, Prudential-Bache and Development and Realisation Trust, a private property company run by Stephan Wingate. Mr Stolzenberg will become chairman of Imry, which is owned by Marketchief.

Mr Myers said: "Since the takeover two years ago, I have got to know Wolfgang extremely well and I think his involvement is to be extremely warmly welcomed."

With the Bank of England known to be looking closely at bank lending to property companies, it is significant that the refinancing of Marketchief has been heavily dependent on the support of Barclays Bank.

Barclays has agreed to convert its original short-term £200 million loan to Marketchief into a medium-term facility and to refinance a similar facility to Imry Group. Barclays is to supply further facilities to Commercial Property Corporation, a new company, which will be 50 per cent owned by Imry and 50 per cent owned by Vines Management, a private company that will be chaired by Mr Myers and that will manage Imry's portfolio.

A spokesman for Barclays said its total exposure to Marketchief/Imry had risen from £400 million to about £440 million.

US braced for even more bank failures

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

ONE of America's top government banking regulators yesterday revised upward his estimate of the number of banks expected to fail by the end of next year, while President Bush met key members of Congress to encourage the speedy passage of banking system reform proposals.

William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp, said year-on-year profits among America's 12,246 commercial banks fell 8.8 per cent in the first quarter of 1990.

Mr Seidman said almost 90 per cent of American banks were profitable but depressed

earnings from property loans dogged one in ten.

The FDIC saw no likelihood of recovery until the end of the year and the number of failed banks this year and next would be at the upper end of the 340 to 440 range.

Mr Seidman said that 418 banks have asset problems, compared with 400 last year. □ America recorded its first foreign trade surplus in almost nine years in the first quarter. However, the commerce department said that cash contributions of \$22.7 billion for the Gulf war were responsible for the \$10.2 billion positive imbalance.

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Preliminary results for the year ended 31 March 1991.

"Having consolidated on a successful start, we are now in a strong position to achieve our investment, customer service and profitability objectives... the company is well placed to build on its strengths for the future benefit of shareholders, customers and employees."

Extract from the Report of the Chairman, Bernard Henderson CBE.

Anglian Water Preliminary Results for the year ended 31 March 1991.

- ◆ Profit before tax of £152.6m
- ◆ Earnings per share of 45.9p - up 9% on 1990*
- ◆ Full year dividend of 17.5p per share - up 14% on 1990*
- ◆ Investment expenditure of £229m - up 19% on 1990 and in line with our expectations

	1991 Audited (£m)	1990 Audited (£m)
Turnover	460.6	401.3
Operating Profit	170.4	154.7
Profit before tax	152.6	86.1
Earnings per share	45.9p*	42.1p*
Dividends per share	17.5p*	15.3p*

*on a pro-forma basis

The 1991 Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 1st July. Copies may be obtained from the Group Company Secretary, Anglian House, Ambury Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE 18 6NZ.

EDS joins fight for SD-Scicon with £116m cash offer

By MARTIN BARROW

THE battle for control of SD-Scicon, the troubled computer software company, took a new twist when Electronic Data Systems, a subsidiary of General Motors, launched a £116.2 million cash offer.

The 45p a share offer was rejected by SD-Scicon, which is under siege from a £111 million hostile cash-or-shares bid from Cray Electronics Holdings.

Cray has secured an undertaking from British Aerospace to accept 37.125p in cash in respect of its 25 per cent shareholding in SD-Scicon.

BAe may yet, however, switch its allegiance to a higher bidder if Cray has not declared its offer unconditional by July 8. BAe has agreed to pay Cray compensation of £500,000 should it accept a higher offer from a third party.

Clyde Ziegler, managing director of Electronic Data Systems in Britain, said he had been talking to SD-Scicon

for nine months before Cray launched its offer but the British company had emphasised its wish to remain independent.

He said that EDS had no plans to dispose of parts of SD-Scicon, such as its American interests, and that the company would retain a great degree of autonomy as part of EDS.

Mr Ziegler said: "SD-Scicon has excellent technical expertise. What EDS contributes is a tradition of increased profits and financial stability."

EDS has stressed that although existing SD-Scicon shareholders would retain no interest in the company, the only alternative was to accept shares in Cray "which have substantially more downside than upside".

The EDS ordinary offer represents a premium of 21.2 per cent over Cray's cash alternative. SD-Scicon shares traded at 36.5p the day before Cray announced its takeover

bid last month but fell below 30p before bid speculation began in the stock market.

EDS is the technology division of General Motors and has interests in the development, integration and management of computer systems. The company has operations in 17 European countries and employs 6,000 people, including 1,900 in Britain and 800 in France.

Mr Ziegler said EDS has a well-established track record compared with Cray, whose management, led by Sir Peter Michael, has been in place for less than two years.

Cray contends that SD-Scicon shareholders will control up to 60 per cent of the enlarged Cray and continue to participate in SD-Scicon's future if they accept the share offer.

Analysts believe there may be other offers for SD-Scicon, whose shares rose 4p to 47p yesterday in anticipation of further developments.

Tie Rack seeks £3m to cut its debts

By OUR CITY STAFF

TIE RACK, the specialist retailer that reported sharply lower profits last year, is raising £3.1 million with a rights issue to reduce borrowings of more than £6 million.

The company announced the division of the roles of chairman and chief executive. Roy Bishko, the founder of Tie Rack, remains as chairman, while Nigel McGinley, the group finance director, becomes chief executive.

Shareholders are being offered 1 new share for every two held at 22p a share. Directors and major shareholders have irrevocably undertaken to take up 28.3 per cent of the rights and 47.4 per cent of the issue will be placed firm with institutions.

The rights issue is underwritten by Samuel Montagu. Existing shares fell 2p to 26p.

After passing dividend payments last year, when pre-tax profits fell from £1.76 million to £51,000, Tie Rack has promised to pay a final dividend of 0.5p a share for the current year.

This commitment is made even though Mr Bishko had given warning of a significant increase in the deficit for the first six months, when the company traditionally incurs a pre-tax loss because of the seasonal nature of its business.

He attributed the downturn to reduced tourism and air travel after the Gulf war, particularly in central London and airport shops, and the short-term effect of the increase in value added tax.

Mr Bishko expected a recovery in the second half. "There is a more encouraging sales trend and with lower interest rates and the expected recovery in air travel the directors believe prospects will improve later this year."

Steps had been taken to restore profitability in North America, he said, where losses of £1.2 million were incurred last year.

The warehouse and administration facility in America has been closed. The American operation is now administered from Toronto, in Canada, while distribution takes place from Britain.



Still waters: Henderson does not plan diversification

Anglian lifts payout 14.3%

ANGLIAN Water's dividend, up 14.3 per cent to 17.5p per share, is likely to be the smallest increase of the privatised groups for the year to end March. On a pro forma basis, pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £153 million. Anglian is seeking an extra 100 design engineers for its £4 billion capital programme. In the core business, 1 per cent volume growth helped income rise 14.1 per cent to £406 million. Total income was £461 million, Bernard Henderson, chairman, said. "We are not unduly wild about startling diversification."

Tempos, page 23

Gridco surges beyond forecasts

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE National Grid Company (Gridco), the bulk electricity distribution group jointly owned by the 12 electricity supply companies of England and Wales, made pre-tax profits of £385.7 million during its first year in the private sector. Although it is not quoted on the International Stock Exchange, Gridco contributes about a third of the profits of each of the supply companies. Gridco's profit for the year to end March was 7 per cent above forecasts made when the supply companies were floated.

The scale of Gridco's first profit, achieved on a turnover of £1,144 million, seems likely to rekindle charges that the regulatory regime for privatised utilities is too weak.

John Utley, the group's finance director, suggested that the long life of power transmission cables and pylons made historic costs a poor basis from which to judge its profitability. The cost return on capital, he said, was only 5.9 per cent.

Mr Utley said the group would make "substantial forays" into capital markets to help finance capital spending of £350 million to £400 million a year. In the year to March, capital spending rose 31 per cent to £273 million.

Eight companies want connections to the grid network. The companies meet the direct cost of connection but do not fund reinforcement of the overall network required for additional throughput, which can cost as much again.

Gridco renewed its commitment to cut staff numbers by 1,000 to 5,500 over four years.

Instrument group drops 40%

PRE-TAX profits at Oxford Instruments Group, the advanced instrumentation company, fell by 40 per cent to £12.07 million in the year to end March.

The shares dropped 20p to 233p on the news. The downturn means that profits are below the level of 1986.

Pre-tax profits in the 1989-90 financial year of £19.85 million included a £5.8 million exceptional gain on a property sale. If exceptional items are stripped out, pre-tax profits fell by 18 per cent.

Peter Williams, chairman and chief executive, said that "the past year has been a very difficult one for the group, being affected by recession in the West and the Gulf war". The company experienced positive cashflow through the year, leaving year-end net borrowings at £0.7 million.

The group research and development spend last year was increased from £6.8 million to £8 million.

Lombard drops into the red by £1.4m

By MARTIN WALLER

LOMBARD North Central, the finance house subsidiary of the National Westminster Bank, fell into a pre-tax loss of £1.4 million (£23.9 million profit) for the half year to end March, after a doubling of the charge for bad debts.

Profits before bad debts increased 21 per cent to £80.2 million, but Sir Hugh Cubitt, the chairman, said the downturn in interest rates had come too late for many of Lombard's customers, who had

had increasing difficulty in meeting their commitments.

New business volumes tended to be lower than in the previous year, reflecting the downturn in demand, although there were some notable successes in increasing sources of new business.

A taxation credit, mainly because of changes in corporation tax in this year's Budget, left an attributable profit of £8.5 million, down from £13.8 million.

Sale Tilney slumps to 19p

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SHARES in Sale Tilney, the food to financial services mini-conglomerate, collapsed from 31p to 19p after the company gave a warning that it would record a pre-tax loss for the year as a result of problems at its Isle of Man insurance subsidiary.

The news is a setback to the plans of Andrew Coppel, former finance director of Rainers, who was brought in

to turn around the fortunes of the company. In March the company announced a £9.6 million pre-tax loss for the year to November 30.

Sale Tilney stands to lose as a result of its guarantee of claims on insurance businesses underwritten by Monument Marine & General, its Isle of Man subsidiary. Monument had net liabilities of £2.75 million on 26 April compared with net assets of £0.77 million on 30 November. Monument

is being wound up by the Isle of Man court. Further claims not covered by reinsurance or by Monument's own funds will be met by the parent company up to a maximum of £30.6 million. John Cahill, the Sale Tilney director responsible for the insurance operations, has resigned from the main board but will remain executive chairman of Sale Tilney Insurance and managing director of Sale Tilney and Partners.

Capital injected at Saab motors

SHAREHOLDERS of Saab Automobile, the troubled Swedish car group, have agreed to inject £5.5 billion (£520 million) in new capital.

General Motors and Saab Scania, which own the company, said the capital restructuring plan would "strengthen Saab Automobile's capital structure and provide the company with sufficient financing capability to fund its ambitious future product programme".

Welsh technology drive

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government announced a £500,000 initiative to attract more information technology companies to Wales.

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, and Dr Gwyn Jones, chairman of the Welsh Development Agency, will make the first international move in the campaign in two weeks' time when they fly to America

to press companies to invest in the principality.

Under the two-year programme, called IT Wales, the government, the WDA and local authorities want to attract five major inward investments in the first year and to double the percentage of IT investment to 20 per cent over the whole period.

GATWICK TO SPAIN ON BUSINESS

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 1991

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Grids surge beyond forecasts

By Ross Thomas

THE NATIONAL GRID has been hit by a series of setbacks in the last few days. The grid's share price has fallen from a high of 1,000p in early May to around 700p today. The grid's share price has fallen from a high of 1,000p in early May to around 700p today. The grid's share price has fallen from a high of 1,000p in early May to around 700p today.

hard drops in red by £1.4

up

IBERIA

The risk of being too cautious

COMMENT

The general election clock may be ticking away, but the Treasury and Bank of England seem to be in no hurry. Yesterday's nine-day lending by the Bank to the discount houses appeared to rule out the cut in base rates that the markets and Tory backbenchers had pencilled in for Friday, after the release of May's retail price figures. In reality, a rate cut this week had never seemed especially likely, if only because it would have been too predictable. The government's economic strategists believe that they must keep the markets guessing. Therefore the monthly predictions of rate cuts rewarding good RPI figures seem doomed to disappointment.

This is all harmless fun and no doubt it helps the discount houses to make some tidy profits on their punts in the futures market. However, the government's determination to keep the markets guessing also has much more serious implications. If the Bank keeps passing up economically justified opportunities to cut base rates because they are "too obvious", it may eventually find itself forced into riskier cuts later.

Despite the vague stirrings of recovery some discerned in Monday's consumer credit and retail figures, the economy remains on the ropes. If the Chancellor does not act much more boldly and urgently to revive it, the chances of a revival becoming perceptible even before a 1992 election will become remote.

The ERM constraint on government policies, so much discussed last autumn, but recently neglected in both the City and Westminster, would then come into effect with a vengeance as markets face the possibility of a labour government.

Why then is the Chancellor not acting now? The simple answer is he fears sterling is already too weak. It may be only just below its ERM midpoint against the mark, but it is less than 1 per cent above its floor against the peseta. More importantly, it has been tumbling, like every other

currency in sight, against the dollar. The trade weighted index, which closed yesterday at 90.6, is now only a hair's breadth above last summer's low point of 90.5. The last straw for nervous officials was the way the pound fell this week even against the mark instead of rising on the coat-tails of the strong dollar. At the Treasury and the Bank, this still seems to cause intense alarm.

False dawn

There was a time, just three months ago, although it seems much longer, when estate agents and their house-builder clients were smiling hopefully after the worst housing recession since the mid-Seventies. The market was beginning to show tentative signs of

recovery. Enquiries from potential buyers perked up after a bleak winter and builders were reporting increased levels of reservations on their new estates. To all appearances the turning point had arrived.

Yesterday's grim news from Tarmac, Britain's biggest housebuilder, undermined the cruelty of what was now clearly a false dawn. Tarmac makes and sells homes as efficiently as anyone. Its policy of making money by cost-conscious building on a short land bank rather than as a geared investment in land through large holdings of developable property makes it more exposed to the ups and downs of the market. The warning to shareholders of a severe profits shortfall is also a warning to the rest of the industry, as well as to those who

sell materials to it and those who chart the course of the economy, that higher demand from homebuyers is going to be late arriving this cycle.

Traditionally, the housebuilders are among the first to see an upturn in consumer spending and confidence as the economy climbs from recession. There were high hopes that this pattern would emerge as interest rates were cut from their crippling levels of last year. Why the dawn has proved to be false is by no means clear as considerable spending power has already been injected back into the economy by cheaper money.

The best guess is that consumer confidence, fragile at best this spring, has taken a further knock due to sharply rising unemployment and the falling levels of pay settlements more recently.

Some housebuilding shares may now be expensive for they have been discounting a rapid

recovery in sales. The stock of 80,000 repossessions and 30,000 unsold homes may prove a heavier than expected drag on recovery.

Awaiting ICI

After racing ahead from the 1194p at which Hanson purchased its stake, on thoughts of a quick bid, ICI shares are now becalmed around 1300p. On immediate trading prospects, this is too high, since profits are likely to fall further this year. Yet the £20 million plus profit that Lord Hanson could now take is far short of what he might ultimately reap.

When ICI finally announces its restructuring plans, the cost will probably be far more than the £300 million already set aside. But ICI's only defence is to improve perceptions of value through joint ventures, sales or part flotation of businesses. That will close the gap between today's share price and the 1700p per share break-up value estimated by some analysts. Shareholders should sit tight.

EC tempers rise as Japan continues to swipe trade

JUST when the Italians discover they have a home-grown product that the Japanese are desperate to buy, they find a Japanese company has swiped the business. An Italian chocolate pudding called Tiramisu has suddenly become so popular in Japanese restaurants that young Tokyoites have been seen giving the pasta a miss in favour of two helpings of Tiramisu, to be doubly fashionable.

The Italians were jumping with joy until they discovered that not only had the Japanese slapped 40 per cent tariffs on imported Mascarpone, the Italian cheese required to make Tiramisu, but were also manufacturing a copy at a third of the price.

The foods division of Fuji Oil has developed, at break neck speed since Tiramisu became popular, a synthetic cheese made from vegetable products, such as palm oil. It tastes like Mascarpone and just happens to be called Mascarpone. To compound the Italian fury, Fuji Oil claims its cheese keeps twice as long as the Italian original.

The Tiramisu dispute is just one of many food and other market complaints being levelled against Japan by the European Community. Officials at the EC delegation in Tokyo claim exorbitant tariff barriers and impenetrable networks of non-tariff barriers are depriving EC member nations of an estimated \$2.5 billion of food exports a year.

Edith Cresson, since becoming prime minister of France on May 16, has turned up the volume and frequency of her protests against Japanese protectionism and what she has termed a Japanese mission to conquer the world.

Mme Cresson has declared that Japan is an enemy of the French people and her words have struck a chord among her countrymen. Last week, Francois Pericot, chairman of CNPF, the employers' association, and one of France's top industrialists, called for temporary protection for Europe's basic industries against what he called Japan's abnormal trade practices.

Exacerbating the problem is the widening EC-Japan trade deficit, which offers Mme Cresson increasing supplies of ammunition for her anti-Japan salvos.

Japan's overall trade surplus grew more than 300 per cent in April, compared with the same month last year, confirming fears of a sharply expansionist trend in Japan's trade balances with the rest of the world.

In April, the EC posted a



Enemy at the door: Cresson's protests strike a chord

trade deficit with Japan worth \$2.5 billion, up 77.1 per cent over the previous year. EC officials have calculated, from figures for the first four months of this year, that the deficit will reach \$30 billion by the end of this year.

Economists in Tokyo predict worse to come. Since the early Eighties, Japan has been preparing a strategy of export diversification away from recession-prone America. The new recipients of Japan's focused export attention are to be the EC and Asia.

Paul Summerville, senior

economist at Jardine Fleming Securities (Tokyo), said that five years ago, Japanese exports to Europe were worth \$41 billion, accounting for 19 per cent of Japan's total exports. By the end of this year, they would have risen to \$72 billion, accounting for 23 per cent.

Mr Summerville predicted that by the turn of the century, Europe would be the target for a quarter of the total products of Japan's exporting machine.

Japanese businessmen, who had done some thorough homework on the implica-

tions of European unification, seem to be running rings round the EC's trade policy.

The car issue, as close to Mme Cresson's heart as it is to that of Shoichiro Toyoda, the Toyota president, is a case in point.

The EC has announced plans to limit Japanese car sales in the Community for six years from January 1993. The annual quota will increase to give the Japanese a share of 16 to 17 per cent of the total market by 1998.

Japanese businessmen, however, have protested that cars made in European subsidiaries of Japanese car manufacturers should not be included in the quotas.

Whatever the Community's decision on quotas, the Japanese sense victory on the car issue because they know that the EC stands for free markets and they believe they will get their own way there sooner or later. An examination of the figures reveals that this will probably be sooner rather than later.

By the mid Nineties, when Japanese plants in Europe are fully operational, annual output is expected to be 750,000 cars. Added to the 1.45 million cars imported from Japan, this produces 2.2 million, or about 17 per cent of the total EC car market of 13 million cars. Even with a permanent quota of 17 per cent, Japanese makers will be able to run at capacity production.

Foreign cars in Japan, however, account for only 5 per cent of Japan's 6.5 million car market, despite Europeans having won the total deregulation of Japanese tariffs on imported cars after years of pressure.

Structural barriers, such as high land price and closely controlled distribution system, have limited access to Japanese markets.

The Japan Automobile Importers' Association has announced that, during May, sales of imported cars fell 4.5 per cent, marking the fifth consecutive month of sales declines.

Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, said in Tokyo recently that the European Community's worsening trade imbalance with Japan was going to lead to a dramatic hardening of political feelings.

If Tokyo economists' predictions are borne out, Japan's war of words with the European Community and America, its two leading trading partners, can only rage stronger.

JOANNA PITMAN

Bundesbank attacks high-speed Emu

ANYONE who feared that the Bundesbank would be the worse for the departure of Karl Otto Pöhl will have been reassured yesterday by the sharp attack from his eventual successor on high-speed European monetary union.

In what amounted to the most downbeat assessment of Emu ever by a Bundesbank director, and a reflection of increasing scepticism on Emu throughout Germany, Hans Tietmeyer, vice-president of the Bundesbank and Herr Pöhl's eventual successor, gave warning that monetary union would lead to the complete abandonment of domestic monetary policies and with it, the sovereignty of the nation.

He said: "All participants must be clear that the loss of monetary sovereignty will make national efforts to solve domestic economic problems impossible. Particularly in respect of the special economic situation in Germany, it would be unwise if the hands of the central banks, and the Bundesbank, were tied too fast." While the stance of the

British government on Emu has softened, particularly after Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is thought to have implicitly accepted the Delors compromise for solving "the British problem", Herr Tietmeyer's speech illustrates that the role of Euro-sceptic is increasingly falling to Germany. In particular, he sharply criticised the increasing political pressure on the German government to embrace Emu

European monetary construction, are in my view problematic.

Herr Tietmeyer's speech marks a considerable hardening in the attitude of the Bundesbank, which has never been an enthusiastic supporter of Emu.

Through public remarks such as these, the Bundesbank hopes to influence the government and the intergovernmental conference on

'Emu requires a single monetary policy and effective rules to enforce budgetary discipline'

in return for European support on German unification last year.

He said: "German unification should not speed up European monetary integration because of the institutional and economic conditions required for the completion of Emu. Political pressure on the lines of 'we supported German unification, now the Germans have to agree to an ambitious

monetary union that is likely to conclude its work on Emu, through recommending a set of amendments to the Treaty of Rome, by the end of the year. Herr Tietmeyer's assessment of Emu appears even more critical than that of Herr Pöhl's, and is backed fully by Helmut Schlesinger, the current vice president who succeeds Herr Pöhl in August. Herr Tietmeyer also said that Emu could work only if

backed with a commitment towards maintaining a hard and stable currency. "Emu requires a single monetary policy and effective rules to enforce budgetary discipline in the member states. These prescriptions are difficult to implement because they affect national sovereignty. On this issue it becomes clear that Emu can work only within a wide-ranging political union."

The speech signals a shift in the German position on Europe amid greater domestic economic difficulties and the predicted increase in unemployment in eastern Germany to about 40 per cent. The Bundesbank is nervous about the government's fiscal policy and the recent trend in wage settlements.

Herr Tietmeyer also reiterated criticisms of German economic union made by Herr Pöhl, by attacking the government's decision to introduce a one-to-one exchange rate, while the Bundesbank's proposal for two-to-one would have avoided some of the present difficulties.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

'Snowman' returns

GEOFF Bowman, the former director of Schroder Securities, who left the firm at the end of April, is about to make his City comeback. "Bowman the Snowman", as he is dubbed in the Square Mile - not to be confused with Sir Jeffrey Bowman, chairman of Price Waterhouse Europe - is thought to be deciding between Panmure Gordon and Williams de Broe. Bowman, former broker to Asil Nadir, who worked for Messell & Co and Lehman Brothers, which bought Messell in April 1986, is expected to take on the role of corporate salesman, and Williams de Broe is tipped as the likely winner.

Stylish farewell

WHEN oilmen go, they go in style. Hundreds of guests are due in Portunado, North Wales, today, to pay their respects to Jack Evans, the former Shell Oil executive

who died in March, aged 84. Evans, who built up a sizeable fortune during his years in the oil trade, has used some of it to fly guests from America for a New Orleans-style funeral, which promises to be a colourful spectacle, with two jazz bands to entertain revellers who will brandish black umbrellas covered with feathers and sequins. Evans founded Hawaiian Industrial Refineries after leaving Shell in the Sixties.

Moving Mountain

SIR Denis Mountain, the former chairman of Eagle Star, will be happy to learn that his son and heir, William, is taking the family name into new territory. William, aged 25, and a former Sedgwick's broker, has joined Bishop Investigations as head of research. He joins from Kroll Associates which, like Bishop, is cashing in on the need to appraise future deals or trace fraud. "More cases of fraud emerge in a recession," says William, who adds that a "frighteningly high" number go unreported. Known cases cost British companies £5 billion last year.

On their bikes

ONE has to hand it to the Japanese. Yamaha International, the securities house, has drummed up more en-

trants than anyone else for the Granada Wheel Appeal bicycle race from London to Brighton on Sunday. At the helm of the 85-strong team will be Kozo Ono, the deputy chairman. Ono, aged 50, is a former ski instructor and once won the Yokohama Open tennis tournament. The Bank of Tokyo has mustered 25 entrants, far more than British entrants. The race raised £1.3 million for the British Heart Foundation last year.

Lloyd's triumphs

LLOYD'S of London triumphed over the stock exchange yesterday in their annual clash at Guard's Polo Club, Windsor, Berkshire. The Lloyd's team won by nine goals to five, despite the absence of the Prince of Wales, who pulled out at the last minute due to injury. The stock exchange has won the Courts Cup four times in six years, helped by players such as Howard Hippwood, regarded as England's best.

JON ASHWORTH



"Oh bother - we look like making too much profit again."

Recession and change send Amersham 31% lower

By OUR CITY STAFF

RECESSION, reorganisation and the government's closure of the Dido and Pluto reactors at the Harwell Laboratory atomic energy plant in Oxfordshire depressed profits at Amersham International, the biochemical and health-care business.

Bill Castell, Amersham's chief executive, reported a 31 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the year to end March, from £23.9 million to £16.5 million, although the previous year's figure included a £5.7 million exceptional credit on the sale and leaseback of the group's headquarters in Buckinghamshire.

After stripping out this exceptional item, earnings are 18.2p (19p) a share. The board is repeating the 8.1p final dividend, leaving the total distribution for the year at an unchanged 11.8p.

Mr Castell, who says he sees signs of recovery, says the unexpected closure of Harwell meant that certain key isotopes became unavailable and forced the company to turn overseas for raw materials at a substantial increase in costs. Amersham then ran into tough conditions in the last



Signs of recovery: Bill Castell, the chief executive

quarter. But results were also affected by changes at Amersham, which saw the sale of Clinical Reagents, the clinical diagnostics business, to Kodak, and the acquisition of Medi-Physics, which incurred a £2 million trading loss in its first nine months in the group. The Clinical Reagents sale led to a £16.1 million extraordinary profit.

After the transactions, overall profit margins fell from

11.3 per cent to 8 per cent, partly because of the change in gross margin mix but also because of the increased cost of isotopes and generally lower gross margins in the life sciences and pharmaceuticals and industrial products divisions.

Mr Castell says the sales of the diagnostics offshoot and purchase of Medi-Physics represent the initial steps in the repositioning of the group's business.

Amersham, the first of the Thatcher government's privatisations in 1982, has been through a year of change, with the appointment of a new team of executive directors and reorganisation of management.

The life sciences division saw no growth in the second half, with sales particularly poor in January and February, while profits fell 11.1 per cent to £16.8 million. Sales have since recovered to normal levels, said Mr Castell.

Radiopharmaceuticals, which bore the Medi-Physics loss, ended the year with a £2.4 million loss (£2.5 million profit).

The sale of Clinical Reagents brought gearing down to 34 per cent.

Sweeping reforms recommended

Europe 'should adopt common corporate tax'

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Federal Trust for Education and Research is urging Europe to adopt a common structure for corporate taxation, in a report that is likely to prove controversial, not least in Britain where the government has persistently refused to accept that the single market requires tax harmonisation.

The report, by a study group chaired by Sir William Goodhart, QC, recommends sweeping tax reforms to "create a system more attuned to the needs of internationally oriented European business". Its recommendations are based on short, medium and long-term measures. EC countries should abolish withholding taxes on royalties, dividends to portfolio investors and on interest and other income in the short term.

The most dramatic changes would occur in the medium term when the report wants to see Europe moving towards a common system of taxation that would allow "the investor to identify the remaining distortions in the different member states", involving common standards, evaluation principles and collection methods.

The report further recommends that tax rates also be harmonised during this stage as "the wide range of rates in force at the date of the report is evidence that market forces alone will not produce convergence of rates".

This claim is in contrast to the view of the British government, which rejects tax harmonisation as a matter of principle. The report argues that, in the longer term, Europe will need a federal system for corporate taxation.

These stages, however, only offer a second-best option. The report concludes: "Given the political will, there is much to be said in favour of making one large change rather than spreading the change and disruption over a number of steps and a longer period of time."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Negotiators see good prospects of Gatt deal

EUROPEAN Community trade negotiators said yesterday they saw prospects of a better global trade accord than was possible at last December's attempt in Brussels. Hugo Paenien, a negotiator, said: "The (Gatt) accord will be much better than what we could have done in Brussels." Talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade collapsed in December after four years amid acrimony about how far and how fast to cut farm subsidies. Work has continued behind the scenes in Geneva. Mr Paenien said: "We should now be able to reach an accord in five or six months." Problems in agriculture had been allowed to dwarf those in other sectors though this was unjustified given the volumes of trade in other sectors.

Drummond Midlands goes into red Radio slides

DRUMMOND Group, the Yorkshire textiles concern, incurred a loss of £379,000 (£1.01 million profit) for the year to end March. Exceptional items of £882,000 related to falls in the value of raw material stocks after the abolition of the Australian wool price support scheme, and the effects of the Gulf war. Final dividend was 0.5p (1.35p), making a 1p (2.35p) payout for the year.

Midlands Radio slides

THE continuing slump in advertising revenues led to a 65 per cent slide in interim pre-tax profits to £307,000 (£981,000) at Midlands Radio, Britain's second largest independent radio company, for the six months to end March. National sales fell 21 per cent, while local advertising revenue fell 5 per cent. The interim dividend is being reduced from 2.5p to 1.5p.

Marston improves

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the Burton on Trent brewing and catering group, reported pre-tax profits of £18.3 million (£17.4 million) in the year to March 30. Earnings are 10 per cent higher at 14.4p, and a 3.2p final dividend lifts the total distribution to 4.46p (4.02p). Marston has seen no upturn in market conditions to date and sales volume in the first two months this year is down on last year, but trading in the managed house division is showing a substantial increase. In the past year, managed houses recorded a 30 per cent advance in profits.

Osborne falls below £1m Casket pays 0.2p dividend

OSBORNE & Little, the wallpaper and fabric designer, has seen pre-tax profits fall from £1.73 million to £892,000 for the year to end March. The final dividend has been reduced to 2.35p, making a 4.35p (5.8p) payout for the year. British retail and trade sales were down 8 per cent on last year. The second half was particularly badly hit as a result of the Gulf war.

Casket pays 0.2p dividend

CASKET, the clothing and leisure group, announced pre-tax profits of £212,000 for the year to end March (£3.17 million loss for the nine months to end March last year). Earnings per share were 0.4p (8.6p loss). There is a final and total dividend of 0.2p (0.1p). The company said that forward orders are stronger than for the comparable period of last year.

Airsprung bounces

AIRSPRUNG Furniture Group, the UK's second biggest bed maker has announced a 49 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.5 million. The improved performance for the year to end March came against a 6 per cent fall in the furniture market. Sales were up 27 per cent at £55.97 million and earnings per share increased 70 per cent to 22.3p. A final dividend of 3.7p makes 6.33p for the year, a 15 per cent improvement. The dividend is covered 3.5 times.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE LOANS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE LOANS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON TUESDAY, 11TH JUNE 1991.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT LOANS

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 10th June 1991, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Loans listed below:

£300 million 10 per cent TREASURY LOAN, 1994
£100 million 8½ per cent TREASURY LOAN, 2007

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant Loan at 3.30 p.m. on 10th June 1991 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 10th June 1991 represents a further tranche of the relevant Loan, ranking in all respects pari passu with that Loan and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Loan, and subject also to the provision contained in the final paragraph of this notice; the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of the Loans to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994 dated 2nd January 1987 and 8½ per cent Treasury Loan, 2007 dated 11th July 1986 may be obtained from the Registrar's Department, Bank of England (New Issues), Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UW.

The Loans are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

Loan	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994	9th June 1994	9th June
8½ per cent Treasury Loan, 2007	16th July 2007	9th December 18th January 18th July

The further tranches of 10 per cent Treasury Loan, 1994 and 8½ per cent Treasury Loan, 2007 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Loan.

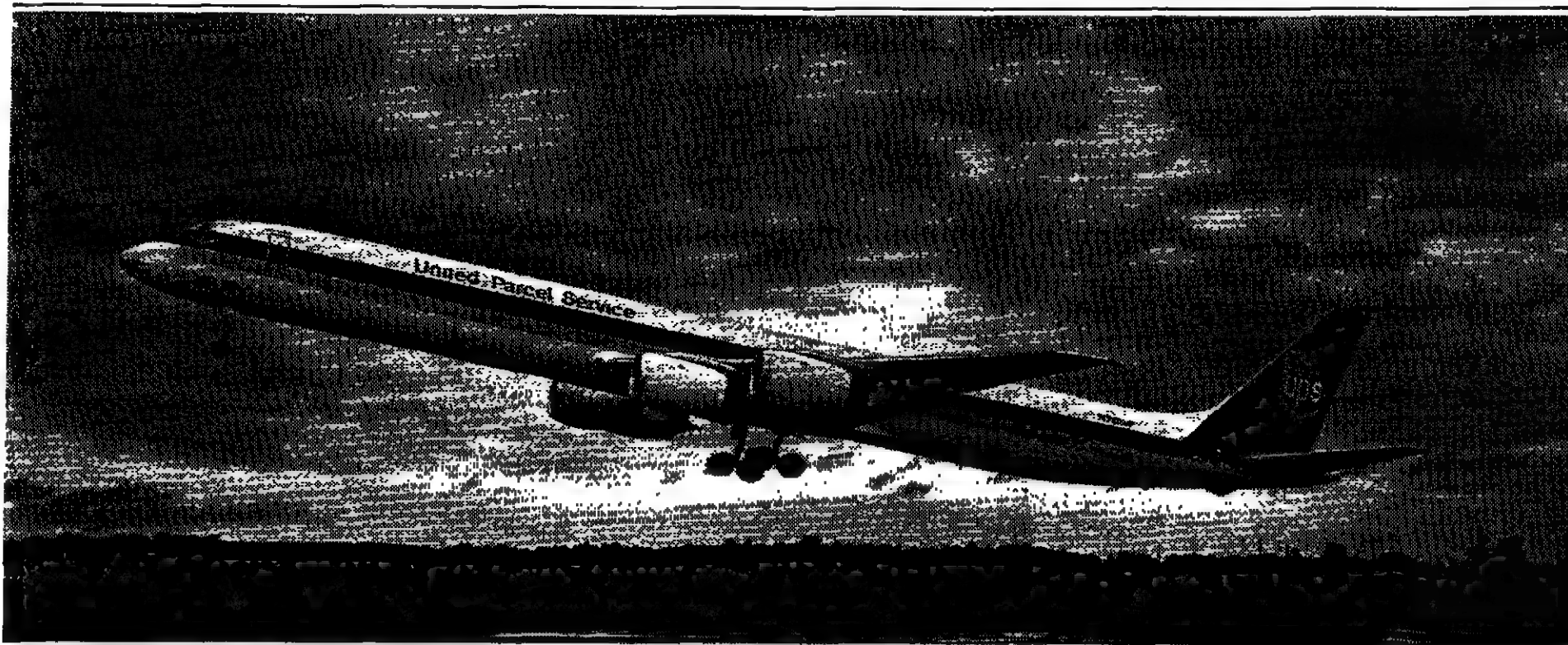
Each of the Loans referred to in this notice is specified under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as a gilt-edged security (under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Loan is held).

Government Statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 25th May 1989 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which the Loans are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

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TT 12/06

July 1991

JFB slips to £5.08m in interim

By COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHNSON & Firth Brown, the Sheffield metals and engineering group, was holding net cash balances of £17.14 million at end March compared with £13.7 million six months earlier, which George Hardie, joint managing director, said will allow the group to take advantage of opportunities as they occur.

Interim pre-tax profits for the half year to end March were £5.08 million (£5.7 million), on a turnover of £60.9 million (£60.2 million). The interim dividend is held at 1p a share.

The company said it had to cope with a rapidly worsening recession in the period, and that a reduction in aerospace orders must mean the second half would be at least as difficult as the first. The foundry companies performed well, and the light engineering companies were broadly able to maintain profits.

JFB sold its associate companies last December, and in the half year bought Monroe Forgings and Cobden Chadwick - both of which made a first-time profit contribution and performed up to expectations.

The group says it expects "a satisfactory performance" for the year as a whole.

Talks to buy quoted company 'at a delicate stage'

Vosper seeks speedier defence exit

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

VOSPER Thornycroft, the warship builder, is seeking to negotiate the takeover of a quoted company to speed its diversification away from the defence business.

Peter Usher, Vosper's chairman, declined to give details of the nature or scale of the business he was seeking. Talks were at a delicate stage, he said. However, Vosper would prefer to pay with a mixture of equity and cash from its £34 million surplus.

News of the talks came as Vosper, privatised six years ago out of British Shipbuilders, announced an 18.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to end March, to £14.3 million.

Mr Usher gave warning, however, that 100 more job losses among the 2,000 workforce appear inevitable because of delays in new defence ministry orders. The job losses, at the company's Southampton facility, come in the wake of 200 redundancies last year that resulted in an exceptional charge against profits of £1.48 million.

The bulk of Vosper's £400 million order book is made up of contracts for its Sandown



Spreading wings: Peter Usher aims to move Vosper away from a reliance on defence

class minihunters. Two have been delivered to the Royal Navy and five more are under construction. Six similar vessels are being built for the Saudi navy with the last to be delivered in 1994. Mr Usher

said an order for seven more minihunters for the Royal Navy, remains likely, but subject to delay.

Vosper believes it is less vulnerable to defence cut-backs than most suppliers

because it has specialised in building minihunters and patrol craft. The company has opened a sales office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in an effort to win increased orders as a result of a new awareness

among Gulf states of vulnerability to mines. Vosper-built ships were the cornerstone of the allied minehunting force during the Gulf war, finding and disposing of hundreds of mines sown by the Iraqis. "We offer the kinds of vessel for which there will be continuing demand," Mr Usher said.

Defence contracts accounted for all but £10 million of Vosper's £140 million sales last year. However, the company has been working hard to build up its non-defence related businesses as well as seeking new markets for existing areas of expertise.

Last year, Vosper won a substantial contract to make laminated plastic blast containment devices for the North Sea oil industry. This year, it will concentrate on finding civilian sector outlets for training skills acquired teaching Royal Navy personnel to operate its ships and equipment.

Vosper will also be seeking to exploit the government's concern to achieve more effective defence spending by offering "through life" support for Royal Navy ships.

A final dividend of 7.875p makes 11.375p, up 15 per cent. Vosper's shares closed yesterday at 248p, up 9p.

Tate reviews its bid condition

By GEORGE SIVELL

TATE & Lyle, the sugar refiner and distributor, is to "review" the condition of its Aus\$4.10 (£1.85) per share takeover bid for Bundaberg Sugar Company, of Australia, that 90 per cent of the stock be tendered. The move follows approval to proceed with the bid from the Australian authorities.

James Kerr Muir, a Tate & Lyle director, said the 90 per cent minimum acceptance condition was "currently under consideration". His statement followed an earlier announcement from John Kerin, the Australian Treasurer, who said he had no objections to the bid, while revoking an April 29 order blocking a takeover for 90 days.

Mr Kerin's office said: "The

Treasurer is satisfied that the Tate & Lyle proposal is not contrary to the national interest."

Tate, whose bid for Bundaberg closes on June 28, owns about 5.3 per cent of Bundaberg, but it is widely thought that more than 30 per cent of the shares are in the hands of arbitrageurs.

Bundaberg has rejected Tate's offer as too low. Its shares opened at Aus\$3.60 on Tuesday and have climbed to Aus\$3.91. An adviser's report commissioned by Bundaberg valued the Australian company at between Aus\$4.54 and Aus\$5.16 per share.

Bundaberg has urged shareholders to reject the bid and said only 3 per cent of stock had been tendered to Tate.

BSS declines by 8.2%

BSS Group, the heating, pipeline and process equipment distributor, had an 8.2 per cent decline in pre-tax profits for the year to end March, from £14.5 million to £13.3 million, and said that this financial year could be a difficult one. The final dividend of 11.5p and the 17.25p total, are unchanged. Earnings

are 41.6p a share, down from 47.5p last time.

Ian Philipps, the chairman, says the profit reflects a significant increase in estimated market share, but that as yet there is no sign of an upturn in demand. The domestic market appears to have stabilised, some 23 per cent below peak levels of 1988.

Fyffes seeks £54m to fund expansion

By OUR CITY STAFF

FYFFES, the Irish fresh food distributor, is to raise Ir£60.2 million (£54 million) for acquisitions and organic expansion through a rights issue of convertible preference shares.

Shareholders are being offered one new convertible preference share, at Ir£110p, for every five ordinary shares currently held. The new shares carry a fixed annual dividend of Ir£8.25p. They are convertible into ordinary shares at Ir£110p each between August 1991 and November 2001.

The company said that it

planned to use the money to broaden its geographic spread of activities "so as to build an international operation in Europe and other markets."

Fyffes also announced almost unchanged interim pre-tax profits, for the six months to end April, of Ir£9.38 million compared with Ir£9.23 million for the previous first half year. Sales were up 24 per cent at Ir£271.7 million. The interim dividend is being increased by 8 per cent to Ir£2.22p from Ir£2.06p. Fyffes shares fell 1p to 95p.

FTSE 100 VOLUMES			
Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 1,884	Carbury 791	Lloyds 1,110	Rowntree 322
Aldi-Lyons 2,888	CU 1,231	Lynco 1,892	Royal Bk 787
Anglian 1,019	Courtauld 377	Luzac 1,273	Royal Ind 1,811
ASDA 7,941	Emirates 1,084	M&S 2,846	Salisbury 1,848
AB Foods 197	Fininvest 42	Manpower 57	Scott & W 600
Argyll 2,803	Flora 1,345	MEPC 185	Seas 4,718
Asp Wagg 951	Fortis 1,729	Midland 2,083	Servco Trk 1,216
B&A 1,287	Gen App 1,460	Nat Power 5,157	Shell 1,584
BET 1,248	GEC 6,006	Nat West 4,219	Smith & N 838
BTH 6,067	Glaxo 1,209	N W Water 513	SK South 2,558
SAT 988	Grand Met 8,258	P&O 777	Sun Alliance 2,317
Berkeley 933	GUS 'A' 182	Pearson 955	Tarmac 4,404
Beas 573	GRE 2,302	Pickering 1,281	Tate Lyle 1,287
BICC 381	Rover 48,328	PowerGen 2,038	TBS 1,161
BT Scotland 918	Heron 'A' 388	Prudential 5,511	Tesco 3,289
Blue Circle 655	Heron 4,586	Racal 3,598	Thames Wtr 1,070
BOC 650	H & C 907	RH Hovis 408	Thomson 426
Broom 1,404	Hawes 303	Rank 493	Tiscali 2,928
Br Aero 489	Hilldown 573	RBC 84	Unilever 353
Br Airways 2,283	ICI 1,454	Redland 910	United Bk 814
Br Gas 3,781	Imperial 980	Reed 932	Wellcome 1,478
Br Parcel 3,816	Ladbroke 2,922	RMC Op 139	Whitbread 677
Br Steel 7,807	Land Sec 1,742	RTZ 1,885	Wills 2,814
Br Telecom 3,488	L&B 1,780	R-Royce 3,257	Wills Cor 1,071
C&W 3,148			

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[illegible]

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
200	200	462	457	-	183	2	-
201	201	462	457	-	183	2	-
202	202	462	457	-	183	2	-
203	203	462	457	-	183	2	-
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205	205	462	457	-	183	2	-
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253	253	462	457	-	183	2	-
254	254	462	457	-	183	2	-
255	255	462	457	-	183	2	-
256	256						

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings ● Ex other r Ex rights ● Ex scrip or share sold t Tax-free ... No significant data.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

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Fast-moving high tech company seeks a polished and professional bilingual PA (27 plus) with experience in a senior level who is or will be living long-term in Paris and is looking for a stimulating career position.
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West End Stockbrokers/Corporate Finance, profitable, well backed, young and innovative, seeks P.A./Secretary. Strong admin, org and secretarial skills essential. c. 5/Hand. Languages an advantage. Considerable client contact so excellent presentation a must. Self confident and interested in Business/Finance then write CV to: Graham Shore, Shore Capital Group PLC, 1 Maddox Street, London W1R 9WA. Salary Negotiable. No Agencies Please!

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Speculators plan continental holiday

Some British institutions are considering investing in continental property, but the most significant international movement is from overseas funds entering the British market, says the consultancy Healey & Baker, in its quarterly investment report.

Dutch and Swedish investors remain active, and many of the principal Japanese investors are showing signs of resuming activity. French investors are also beginning to buy, and interest from German buyers is growing.

The report shows that demand from investors for office property has polarised during the last quarter. Central London property is in demand whereas provincial and out-of-town properties, particularly on business parks, are unpopular.

The severity of the recession in the financial and business services sector has also undermined investors' confidence in rental growth, except in areas where there are international opportunities.

Taking a similar line, the Richard Ellis research consultancy concludes from the evidence that British institutional investors may be preparing to re-enter the central London property market after a period when overseas investors, especially from continental Europe, have increasingly underpinned a market hit by recession.

The firm's latest London market bulletin shows that central London capital transactions amounted to £330 million in the first quarter of the year, 36.5 per cent lower than in the corresponding period last year, and of the total, 70 per cent

As overseas investors continue to underpin a London property market hit by recession, British institutions are considering investing funds abroad. Christopher Warman reports

were accounted for by overseas investors.

High yields in London, compared with those of other European centres, are providing a strong pull for continental European investors, notably the French and the Dutch.

German private investors are also showing interest, including Gerler Properties, which recently paid £53 million for three properties, including King's Cross House in Pentonville Road.

Ian Reid, the head of the Richard Ellis research consultancy, says that while Britain is still in recession the Chancellor's forecast for a recovery in the middle of the year "may not prove totally unrealistic".

Commercial property market watchers are looking for signs of improvement in their sector as Norman Lamont is in the economy as a whole, and a batch of reports on investment and property values detects a twitch in the dormant body.

Dron & Wright, in its half-yearly survey, suggests that the slide in property values has been halted, but warns investors to expect a delay of up to three years before any sustained growth in rentals starts again.

The firm forecasts that the retail sector will probably lead the

property market out of the present slump, after further cuts in interest rates, but the southeast is likely to lag behind other areas because of the recent rises in unemployment.

Now that values are unlikely to go lower, Dron & Wright expects a proliferation of would-be purchasers to boost demand for property, and believes a steady flow of realistically priced investments will come on to the market towards the end of the year.

Jones Lang Wootton's property index supports this assessment and the firm takes a cautious view of the future. The index shows an overall loss of minus 0.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1991, and a slight deceleration in the downward trend in both overall and capital terms.

The industrial sector is shown in the index as the best performer, giving a total return of 2 per cent in the quarter. All three sectors are said to have picked up, although offices and shops are still showing a negative return. On the basis of the first quarter's returns, Jones Lang Wootton predicts that the property market could soon show an improvement.

The report says: "There is a consensus among economists that the turning point of the recession

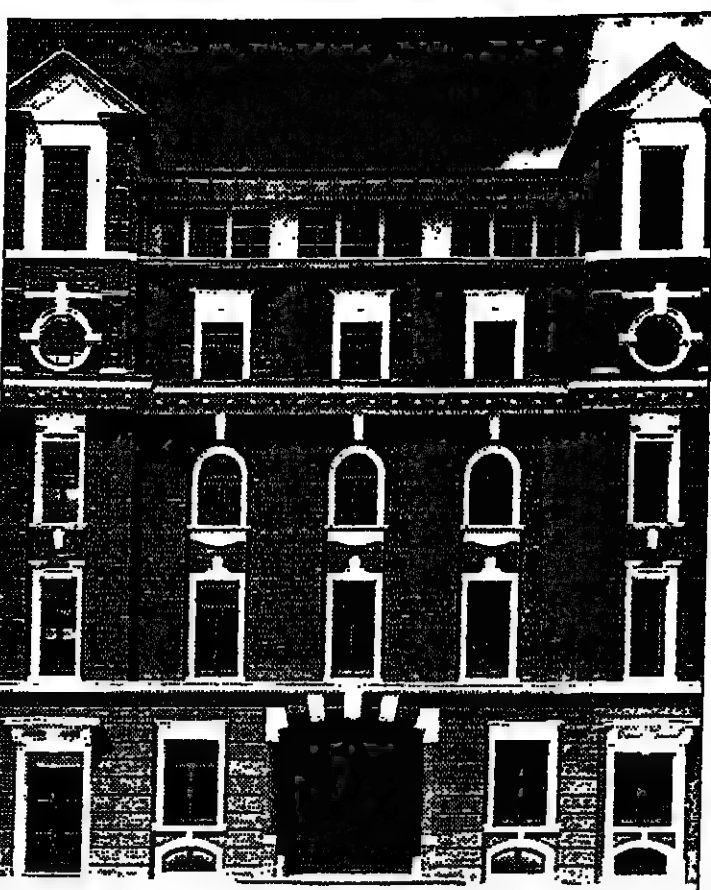
will be in 1991, but sustained rental growth is unlikely to resume before a general economic recovery. The speed of the recovery in the property market will be tied to the economy in general, but will also vary over sectors and locations, both in terms of yield and rental growth."

Gerald Blundell, a Jones Lang Wootton partner, says that although the price at which properties can now be purchased should provide a platform for them to perform well in the medium to long term, above average performance would be achieved only by careful selection.

Healey & Baker also treads gingerly, suggesting that market sentiment has improved, but a shortage of available investment stock continues to hold back investment activity.

It says: "It would appear that the property investment market has stabilised and there are signs of increased confidence from both investors and occupiers. The volume and nature of current activity is showing renewed vigour, triggered by the ending of the Gulf conflict, falling inflation and reduced interest rates. However, the mood of optimism is fragile and investors are carefully monitoring the economy."

The Healey & Baker report concludes that there continues to be a disparity between the prices that institutions will accept to persuade them to sell their existing assets, and the bids they are prepared to make for new acquisitions. The flow of stock on to the market is therefore reduced below the level of demand.



That Italian influence: Little London Ltd, part of the Jacobs Island Company, has completed the Italian building, the first property at the 76,000 sq ft Little London development of offices, shops and a restaurant by St Saviour's Dock in Bermondsey. The 7,635 sq ft Italian building was originally built in 1905 to a Venetian design. Drace Commercial is seeking offers from £15 per sq ft for the refurbished office space. The first phase of the scheme also includes Mill House, a 21,600 sq ft property due for completion in August. Mill House was built in 1882 for the Jacobs biscuit company.

IN THE MARKET

□ The Bedford Estates has completed an extensive restoration programme at five Grade I listed buildings in Bedford Square, one of the most complete Georgian London squares, dating from about 1775. The five terrace houses, 21-25, are now available for letting at up to about £45 per sq ft through Chesterton. Of these, numbers 22 and 23, which comprise 15,120 sq ft, are linked and are available either separately or as a single unit. The other houses range in size from 3,500 sq ft to 4,915 sq ft, and the restoration has left them with their original fireplaces, moulded ceilings, architraves and skirtings. The main rooms of the houses overlook the square.

□ The Principal Hotels Group and the architects Selfert have won the annual City Heritage Award for the restoration of Factory House, one of the City of London's oldest buildings. The 300-year-old house, in the secluded Laurence Pountney churchyard, is a Grade II listed building that now provides 3,500 sq ft of office accommodation. By the mid-Eighties, the building, used as offices since 1860, had fallen into serious disrepair. Selfert, working with English Heritage and City Corporation planners, had to deal with sloping floors, bomb damage and subsidence. The letting agents are D.E. & J. Levy and Nelson Bakewell.

□ Pearce Construction, the southern building group, has secured a £25 million contract to design and build Sony's European colour television manufacturing plant, the first stage in the development of Sony's £147 million investment in a new technology park in South Wales. The new plant, due for completion in summer 1992, will include a large fully automated production area, a high technology research and development centre, and offices.

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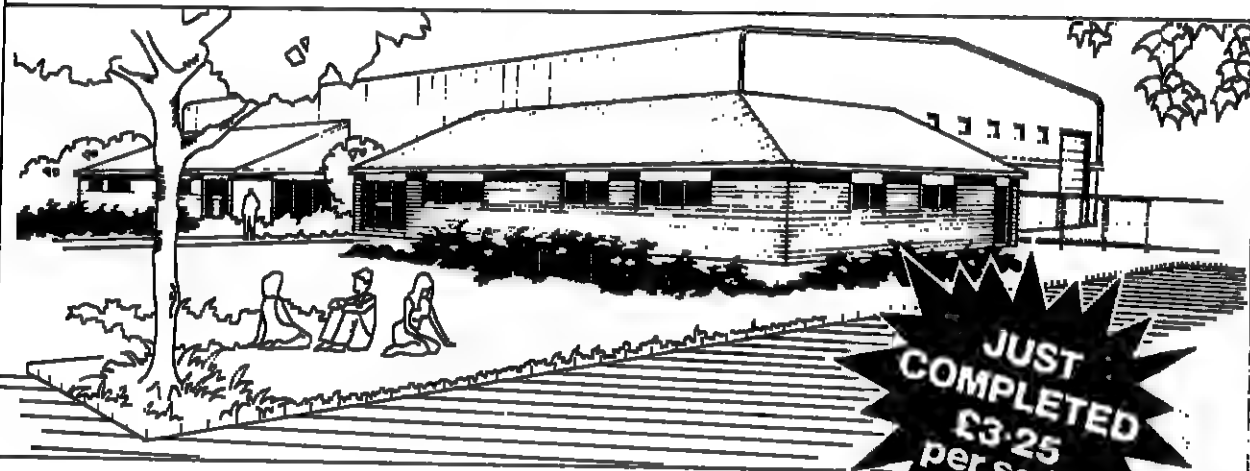
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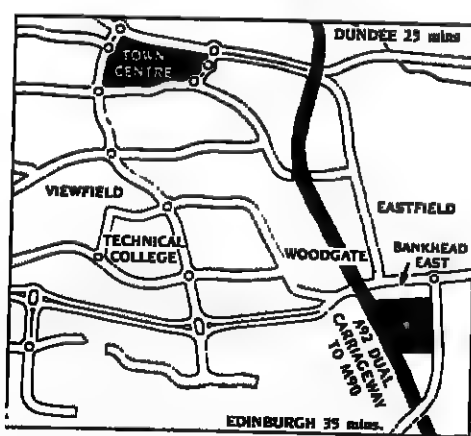
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Evidence by USA television link Inadvertent recklessness in drink case

Garcia and Others v Amerindo Investment Advisors Ltd and Others Before Mr Justice Morritt [Judgment June 7]

The court had jurisdiction under Order 38, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to order that an overseas witness could give evidence by a television link.

Mr Justice Morritt so held in the Chancery Division in the case of *Garcia and Others v Amerindo Investment Advisors Ltd and Others*. The court was asked to order that an overseas witness could give evidence by a television link.

Mr A. D. Colman, QC and Mr Jeffrey Grader for the plaintiffs; Mr Jonathan Marks for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE MORRITT said that the plaintiffs alleged that an essential document in the case was a forgery made by cutting out the relevant parts and pasting together the rest.

A letter of request had been sent by Master Topley to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, in the State of New York, USA, requesting the examination of the documents in the case of *Garcia and Others v Amerindo Investment Advisors Ltd and Others*.

That procedure would involve an adjournment of the case for four months to which the plaintiffs objected. They therefore proposed a different

method of receiving the evidence of Mr St Angelo who was not willing to come to this country, namely, video conferencing.

The defendants did not consent to that proposal and argued that the court had no jurisdiction to make an order allowing the receipt of evidence by such a method.

The general rule as reproduced in Order 38, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was that any fact required to be proved by the trial judge should be proved by the examination of the witness orally and in open court. But that requirement was subject to any other provision of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Morritt said that the court had power to order the manner in which evidence was given but not as to the substance of the evidence which might be given beyond that which was legally admissible.

Accordingly, it seemed that the first point to consider was the evidence given by a witness abroad by means of a television link was admissible.

able at all. Such evidence would be given by the witness in the place where he made the oral statement, namely, the United States of America.

As such, it would be admissible under section 2 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968, if proved by evidence who heard it. Moreover, any video-tape of the examination and cross-examination would be similarly admissible as a document in which the statement was made.

Thus, if both parties and the witness cooperated a video-tape of the examination and cross-examination of a witness overseas would be admissible as evidence in proceedings in England. Moreover, in such a case the evidence so established would be of greater weight than the ordinary Civil Evidence Act statement.

But the defendants did not consent to such a procedure. They contended that their Lordship had no jurisdiction to make the order sought.

First, they pointed to the provisions of section 32 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 under which evidence could be given through a live television link in certain classes of proceedings.

They argued that it was for Parliament to decide whether to institute a similar alteration to the general principles that evidence was given orally and in court in the case of civil proceedings.

Second, they contended by reference to section 32(3) of the 1988 Act and section 1(1) and (5) of the Perjury Act 1911 that there was no sanction under English law for a knowingly false answer to a question.

His Lordship did not think that either of those points required him to hold that Order 38, rule 3 did not confer the necessary jurisdiction. Prior to the Criminal Justice Act 1988 there was no provision applicable to criminal trials comparable to Order 38, rule 3.

Thus, the fact that section 32 of the 1988 Act was confined to criminal proceedings did not indicate a lack of jurisdiction in civil proceedings; if anything it suggested the opposite.

Similarly, the fact that section 1 of the 1911 Act contained no sanction for knowingly false answers did not indicate a lack of jurisdiction because there was no such sanction in respect of a statement made by a person overseas which was admissible under section 2 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968.

Given that the evidence was a video-tape, then its transmission by television link was a means by which evidence was given so as to fall squarely within the words of Order 38, rule 3.

His Lordship concluded therefore that he had jurisdiction to make the order sought and in the exercise of his discretion did so.

Solicitors: Howard Kennedy; Lovell White Durrant.

Blackly and Another v Director of Public Prosecutions Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice McCullough [Judgment May 23]

Two defendants, who lived a man's drinks in the belief that he was unwilling to drive after drinking excess alcohol and with the hope that he would therefore be unable to return home, were not guilty of the offence of procuring the man to drive with excess alcohol when he left and drove straight home before they had the chance to tell him about the alcohol.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Ruth Mary Blackly and Lorna Elizabeth Sutton (1991) 1 All ER 314 where Carter was supervising Collins a learner driver whose blood alcohol level exceeded the prescribed limit. Carter was charged with aiding and abetting his offence.

The word "reckless" appeared only once (at p317H) in the judgment of Lord Widgery. Lord Justice Bingham, however, elsewhere in his judgment Lord Widgery spoke in terms of Carter's knowledge or awareness.

There was thus the single reference to recklessness. It did not form part of the ratio of the case. There was in any event nothing to suppose that Lord Widgery was thinking of anything other than advertent recklessness.

In the following year of one of the questions for the opinion of the court were: (1) Whether the offence of procuring could be committed by someone who brought the principal offence about, not intending that the offence should be committed but reckless as to whether it was committed or not; and (2) if so, whether the meaning of "recklessness" was that given to it by Lord Diplock in *R v Lawrence* (1967) AC 510, 535.

Solicitors: Blake Latham for White Bowker, Winchester; Wide Scape.

commit the offence. So all that was under consideration was the mens rea of procuring the commission of an offence by another.

Mr McCullough submitted that an accused might be convicted of procuring an offence of strict liability if he intentionally did an act or brought about a state of affairs without which the offence would not have been committed and at the time he did that act or caused that state of affairs he either intended that the offence should be committed or was reckless as to whether it would be committed.

His Lordship first considered the case of *Carter v Richardson* (1974) 1 RTR 314 where Carter was supervising Collins a learner driver whose blood alcohol level exceeded the prescribed limit. Carter was charged with aiding and abetting his offence.

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the few reported cases of procuring was *Attorney-General v Renda* (No 1 of 1975) (1975) QB 773, 777 where Lord Widgery said: "To procure means to produce by endeavour. You procure a thing by setting out to see that it happens and taking the appropriate steps to produce that happening."

That passage strongly suggested that the procurer had to be shown to have intended to bring about the commission of the principal offence and that mere awareness that it might result would not suffice.

Having looked at all the relevant cases referred to in the cases cited to the court his Lordship found no warrant for the suggestion that an accessory before the fact, whether aider and abettor, counsellor, commander or procurer, might be convicted of an offence if he called a less strict mens rea than would suffice to convict a principal in the second degree.

Indeed in *Ferguson v Waring* (1951) 1 KB 814 it was suggested that something more might be required to convict one who "counsels and procures".

For those reasons his Lordship concluded on the question of the mens rea of an alleged accessory before the fact that while it might nowadays be the law that advertent recklessness as to the consequences of his deliberate act of assistance might suffice to convict someone, not all of those accused of being an accessory before the fact, it was clear that inadvertent recklessness did not.

The convictions would be quashed and the stated questions answered: (1) The use of the word "recklessness" was best avoided when considering the mens rea required of someone accused of procuring the commission of a substantive offence; (2) in so far as the correct approach to the mens rea required with the concept of "recklessness": "No".

Solicitors: Moberley, Lye; CPS, West Merica.

It had, at the least, to be shown that the accused contemplated that his act would or might bring about or assist the commission of the principal offence; he had to have been prepared nevertheless to do his own act and he had to have done that act intentionally.

Those requirements matched those needed to convict principals in the second degree and they fitted well with the liability of the parties to a joint enterprise.

In relation to those accused only of "procuring" and perhaps also those accused only of "counselling and commanding" it might be, as Lord Goddard's judgment in *Ferguson v Waring* would permit and as Lord Widgery's judgment in *Attorney-General v Renda* (No 1 of 1975) strongly suggested, that it was necessary to prove that the accused intended to bring about the principal offence.

The present case did not, however, require that to be decided.

The convictions would be quashed and the stated questions answered: (1) The use of the word "recklessness" was best avoided when considering the mens rea required of someone accused of procuring the commission of a substantive offence; (2) in so far as the correct approach to the mens rea required with the concept of "recklessness": "No".

Solicitors: Moberley, Lye; CPS, West Merica.

Only parties can appeal taxation decisions

Tramp Leasing Ltd v Turnhill and Others Before Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Stocker [Judgment May 23]

A judge had no jurisdiction to order an appeal by a sheriff from a taxing master's determination of his claim for fees as there was no provision for an appeal under the claim procedure and Order 62, rule 35 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided for appeals only by parties to taxation proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the sheriff from Mr Justice Sheen who had allowed the sheriff's appeal from Master Marryon in respect of commission but dismissed it in respect of poundage.

The master had ordered that the plaintiff, Tramp Leasing Ltd, pay the sheriff's claim for commission of 5 per cent of the value of the goods seized and for poundage.

Mr Peter Kirby for the sheriff; Mr Leslie Michaelson for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiff had recovered

judgment against the first two defendants, Mr and Mrs Turnhill. On April 13, 1989 the plaintiff issued a writ of fieri facias addressed to the Sheriff of Hampshire. Pursuant to that writ the sheriff entered into a contract with the agency of Mr Marryon through the agency of Mr Marryon to seize the goods of the defendants.

Later, the sheriff was instructed to take no further steps to realise the charges seized. In the event, the judgment debt was paid in full and it was not necessary to hold an auction.

The under sheriff then presented the sheriff's bill to the master claiming payments for 5 per cent of the value of the goods and for poundage under paragraphs 8 and 10 respectively of the Sheriff's Fees Order dated July 8, 1920 made under section 2(2) of the Sheriff's Act 1887.

The plaintiff disputed the sheriff's right to poundage and commission. The master upheld the sheriff's claim for both. The plaintiff then appealed to Mr Justice Sheen.

The jurisdiction conferred on a master by the 1920 Order was to tax but there was no provision for an appeal to a judge as provided in Order 62, rule 35. In *Union Bank of Manchester Ltd v Grundy* (1924) 1 KB 833 the majority of the Court of Appeal held that no appeal lay from a decision of a district registrar fixing the amount of poundage.

There had been no relevant alteration to either the 1920 Order or the Rules of the

Supreme Court since the decision in *Union Bank* to give a right of appeal against a master's decision on sheriff's fees and charges. The appeal would accordingly be allowed.

Lord Justice Stocker delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Blake Latham for White Bowker, Winchester; Wide Scape.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the plaintiff had recovered

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OLYMPIC GAMES

Grand horizons to match the IOC's feelings of grandeur

By DAVID MILLER

THE FIRST International Olympic Committee (IOC) annual session to be held in Britain since that of the Olympic Games of 1948, which opens today in Birmingham, may prove to have been a watershed. It could be the most moment when the world's most famous private club finally conceded the necessity to become a more global parliament, with a broader franchise on certain key issues.

In the grand old plutocratic age of archdukes, barons and counts, how they would have welcomed today's formal opening of their affairs by the Queen of England. They will love it just as much this afternoon, this unique array of bureaucrats, politicians and self-made millionaires.

It will make them more than ever seem important: which they are. Under the leadership since 1980 of Juan Antonio Samaranch, a publicly insatiable Spaniard with a self-discipline that is positively Germanic and a perception of his fellows that is Shakespearean, the Olympic movement has grown from a four-yearly event in danger of collapse to become the dominant force in world sport.

In 11 years, Samaranch, by a democratic, constitutional process, has solved a myriad of crises: insolvency, boycotts, professionalism, even, it seems, sporting apartheid. The face of the Olympic movement has been transformed, its popularity magnified, its influence reaching the doors of the White House and the Kremlin (and maybe, when the British finally wake up, even Number Ten). There may remain unsolved problems, particularly of gigantism and of drugs, but at 71, Samaranch governs a unique organisation of peaceful force beyond the dreams of its founder, de Coubertin.

Yet the power of the IOC will have a price. The new

strength has come from Samaranch's subtle co-option and embrace of the twin-constituents of the Olympic Games: the international federations and the national Olympic committees. They, in return, seek their share of the power. They want a vote.

In recognition of this, the IOC executive board has agreed that the presidents of the 31 federations of Olympic sports — besides the six who are already IOC members — and representatives of the continental associations of national Olympic committees shall, from 1993, have the vote on determining Olympic Games' host cities. It is not certain whether the proposal will be put to the session for ratification this time. It is a radical move which the IOC membership, jealous though many of them may be of their exclusive authority, cannot afford to withhold.

Once this change has happened, and the IFs/NOCs have a foot in the door, it is inevitable that during the next decade there will be a further push towards an *ex-officio* democratisation, which makes arguable sense as the Olympic Games move ever towards a corporate structure.

A further impetus in this direction will be given when, as is expected, Mario Vazquez-Rana, the president

of the Association of National Olympic Committees, is elected IOC member in place of the retiring Dr Eduardo Hays, of Mexico. Although Vazquez-Rana's absence of any language facility other than native Spanish makes it improbable that he could be a contender to succeed Samaranch, he wields immense influence.

It is an anomaly too, that the leader of the prime Olympic sport, athletics, should have no direct involvement in Olympic affairs. Primo Nebiolo wears his exclusion uncomfortably but patiently.

If the Olympic movement is going to remain the master of its own power, it will probably be to its advantage if Samaranch decides to run for office for another four years from 1993, to maintain the diplomacy that keeps the giant on the rails.

The main decisions of the session this week are confirmation of the readmission of South Africa, to be debated tomorrow, and the election of the 1998 Winter Games host on Saturday.

In the latter, the members have the unenviable task of deciding between Salt Lake City, an exemplary candidate, Nagano (Japan), Östersund (Sweden), Aosta (Italy) and Jaca (Spain). To return to North America, for the sixth Olympic Games in 22 years since Montreal might irreparably stain the IOC's global credibility. The geographic scheduling for hosting is a headache Samaranch must resolve.

With the Group Areas and Land Acts repealed, only the Population Registration Act remains of South Africa's apartheid laws. With this scheduled to go by the end of the month, it is certain that the session will open the door to South African sport, a decision that can only hasten, I believe, South Africa's move towards normality.



Samaranch: inscrutable

RUGBY UNION

Payments leave RFU in limbo

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE absence of a clear, internationally recognised guideline has left the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in limbo in its latest attempt to interpret the game's amateur regulations. Nor, having agreed to submit details of the £2 million promotional campaign involving national squad players to an international Rugby Football Board (IRFB) ruling, are they likely to find a quick solution.

The union must seek clarification after representatives of the other home countries expressed unhappiness at the possibility that England's players might be remunerated for taking part in rugby-related commercial activities. Having established harmony on Saturday, apparently, over the players' plan for a "Run with the Ball" promotion in the autumn, RFU representatives were brought up short 24 hours later when Ireland, Scotland and Wales — with the Irish leading the charge — expressed concern at the proposal.

"They felt some aspects were not consistent with the international board regulations," Michael Pearey, the RFU presi-

dent, said. "The problem area is one of definition. In a nutshell, the question is to decide when a commercial activity is not rugby-related, and, therefore, permits a player to receive payment; this will be referred to the IRFB standing committee on amateurism, which is, ironically, chaired by an Englishman, Denis Easty."

None the less, the campaign will go ahead; Brian Moore, the Harlequins and England hooker, confirmed as much because the players will receive no money for promoting the game. "I am confident the international board will allow us to promote ourselves in a non-rugby-playing sphere because that is exactly what they decided would be permissible last year," he said.

Moore has been surprised by the interest shown by potential sponsors in the campaign but the absence of any definitive decision must create doubt over what the game's amateur regulations will permit.

Peter Winterbottom, the England flanker, will captain Harlequins in the Pilkington Cup holders, again next season. □ The Begles-Bordeaux front row will win their first cap for France against Romania in Bucharest on June 22. The shaven-headed trio of Simon, Moseca and Gimbret, who helped Begles to the French club championship earlier this month (though they lost 13-12 to Narbonne in the final of the Du Manoir Challenge at the weekend) are among six newcomers to the team.

Courtois, the Begles flanker, and Cadieu (Toulouse) also join the pack in which Roumat and Ceillon are the only survivors of the forwards who finished the grand-slam game with England in March. The sixth debutant is Fabian Galthie (Colomiers), the French university's scrum half.

FRANCE: S Blanco (Blaritz, captain), J-B Lafont, F Meunier (Roum Club), P Sella (Agen), P Montas (Blaritz); D Camberlano (Bordeaux), F Gethin (Colomiers); S Simon, V Moseca, P Gimbret, R Courtois (Bordeaux), O Pottier (Agen), J-M Cadieu (Toulouse), E Champ (Toulon), M Ceillon (Bordeaux).

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NETBALL

Limited titles opposed

By LOUISE TAYLOR

AS THE England party prepares to fly to Australia and the world championships on Saturday, a row is developing over the next world tournament, in Birmingham in 1995.

Some members of the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) believe that at a council meeting in Canada in 1989 it was agreed to restrict the 1995 championships to 12 teams — the top six in Australia this summer and a further six called from a qualifying tournament. Although England, who are ranked No. 4 in the world, would appear to have their place in Birmingham assured, that could leave Scotland, Wales and Ireland on the sidelines.

Lynn Nicholl, chief executive of the All England Netball Association, said: "Countries like Scotland and Wales would have trouble affording to participate in an international qualifying tournament. And, especially at a time when netball has just been included in the Commonwealth Games, it would just not be viable."

"Therefore, we shall be arguing strongly that the 12-team format was merely a proposal and no agreement was reached in Canada, when we represent England at the Fina meeting in Sydney on June 26."

By then, an England party also will be in Sydney, ready for the opening ceremony on June 30, after acclimatising in Perth and Brisbane.

Closer to home, Malta have applied to join the recently formed Federation of European Netball Associations after a successful tour against club and county sides in southeast England last week.

Nicholl said Malta hoped to participate in the 1995 world championships in Birmingham. She is hopeful the Maltese will encourage further interest in netball in Europe.

MOTOR RACING

Postlethwaite leaves the Tyrrell team

THE Tyrrell Formula One team announced yesterday that Harvey Postlethwaite, their engineering director, was leaving "by mutual consent".

Postlethwaite, who joined Tyrrell in 1988, is to become technical director with Sauber Mercedes, the Swiss-German team that competes in the world sports car championship.

George Ryan, Tyrrell's chief designer, will now assume technical responsibility for the team.

Lancashire shed their traditionalist prejudices for good



Mistress of all she surveys: Rose Fitzgibbon, cricket's first woman county secretary, in front of the pavilion at Old Trafford

Fitzgibbon blooms in new role

By PETER BALL

WITH a full house at Old Trafford, today's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final between Lancashire and Yorkshire will recall the days when Roses matches packed the ground and provided the raw material for Sir Neville Cardus's elegant essays. Things have changed since then, with one-day cricket and Lancashire now a cricket business than a cricket club, with a turnover approaching £4 million.

Cardus might have taken those developments into his stride. One can only guess what he would have made of the beloved county, the last to be reformed, the last to appoint a female county secretary.

But Rose Fitzgibbon is a remarkable woman. "She gets away with saying things that nobody else would," one insider remarked of the county's cricket secretary. "She speaks her mind and is very

straight. And she and Chris Hassall, her predecessor, have virtually run this place between them for years."

Nobody should doubt her strength. Soon after her appointment, a Benson and Hedges Cup man-of-the-match award — traditionally a task enjoyed by the secretary — required her to visibly breach the last bastion of Lancashire male supremacy, the pavilion. Jim Cumbers, the marketing manager, and former fast bowler, asked if she would like him to do the honours. "No thank you," Fitzgibbon said, "it's the secretary's job and I want to do it."

And she did, to the delight of her sister and other women cricketers who saw their demands for equality being so visibly satisfied. Even 18 months ago, the struggle to admit women to membership was not conceded without a fight from diehard sections of the Red Rose county.

When they were canvassing opinions about it, they

said, "but what about Miss Fitzgibbon? She goes into the pavilion, and she's a lady," she recalled. "I don't remember if it was a gatesman or a member, but the reply was, 'but even she wouldn't sit on the pavilion and watch cricket'."

The battle has now been won. On this occasion, it was not Fitzgibbon's battle but that of her sister, Maureen, who chaired the women's steering committee, which pressed the measure through last winter.

Any county secretary who has her chairman walking in trepidation while the players, who know her as Auntie Rose, regard her as friend and confidante, clearly has her priorities right.

Ironically, unlike her sisters, Rose Fitzgibbon did not like cricket when a "very gentle lady" at the firm she was working for persuaded her to apply for the job of secretary at the county at Old Trafford 34 years ago.

The captain and secretary

then were Cyril Washbrook and Geoffrey Howard respectively, two gentlemen of the old school, at a time when smaller counties would sometimes combine the two posts, and even at Old Trafford there were only seven administrative staff instead of today's 20. It was an uneasy baptism.

"I hated cricket," she confessed. "My father and sisters were very keen, and we couldn't talk at the table when the cricket scores were on. I didn't think it was anything I would be interested in at all, but I duly took the job."

"And after a fortnight I thought, 'that's it, I'm leaving. I just can't stand it any more', because I couldn't get on with Mr Howard. Couldn't get on with him at all."

Fate, in the shape of MCC, took a hand. Howard instead going off on tour as manager that winter. By the time he returned, she had settled in, and from that rocky beginning the pair developed a firm friendship.

She has been there ever since, seeing secretaries come and go, the last 13 years as assistant secretary and standing in on three occasions until the latest departure, that of Hassall, led to her elevation. Hassall, now the Yorkshire chief executive, sent white roses — a piece of mischief blunted when she took them home, unlike the other flowers and cards of congratulations which festoon her office from the generations of players and administrators who enjoyed her help.

Cricket, perhaps, is still not her first love — she teaches Irish dancing to competition standard — but she has come a long way since she went home and confessed after her first day's work that she did not know what the score was. "Nobody came and told me," she said. "You don't wait for people to tell you," her father Maurice said. "Go and find out for yourself."

Rose Fitzgibbon has found out quite a lot about Lancashire and cricket ever since.

CRICKET

Botham and Co offer Test captain little time to rest

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Gooch will not have spent yesterday in smug contemplation of his widening fame. He may have scanned the newspapers, politely acknowledged a stream of well-wishers and raised a questioning eyebrow at the news that a computer now rates him the best player in the world. He will probably have pronounced his favourite phrase, "not bad for an old'un", and then set off on a ten-mile run before the resumption of normal business today.

Nothing could be more unlikely than sudden celebrity status swelling the steady head of the England captain but, just in case there was a risk, he has already doctored from the Balmian gear and donned his workday outfit, which in some ways he still finds more comfortable as skipper of dear old Essex.

Today, Essex meet Worcestershire in the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup, and while a packed house at Chelmsford scarcely qualifies as a quiet winding-down period after heading, Gooch is unlikely to have to grapple with making history at the end of this contest.

These counties are wholly familiar with cup finals, each having been to Lord's six times for one of the two big limited-

overs occasions. Essex have won each once, but Worcestershire's cup final history is one 100 per cent record they are not anxious to maintain.

Today's match is full of intrigue and uncertainty, on paper a very different tale from the other semi-final, in which Lancashire will be at unbackable odds to win a Roses match with a difference at Old Trafford.

The old foes of the north have always been mighty clubs with big-city grounds, glowering at each other across the Pennines. Essex and Worcestershire are essentially small, provincial concerns with little playing success and commercial expertise have brought glamour and prosperity only very recently.

They have met just once before in the Benson and Hedges Cup, also in a semi-final, in 1987, when Worcestershire, after losing the 1980 final to Northamptonshire. It is not likely to be so routine a result today. Heretic though it is to doubt Gooch in any sphere right now, my instinct is that Worcestershire will win.

Ian Botham is back and whatever the illogicality, it will be seen as his chance to press for Second Test inclusion. Worcestershire also summon

Graham Dilley — who is these days kept under wraps for games which really matter — to share the new ball with the very much in-form Neil Radford. Then there is a chap called Hick, whose failure at Headingley only buys time for those who deride him.

Essex will be efficient, as always, and if Foster is on song with the ball and Gooch with the bat, they will be hard to beat. Harder, however, than Yorkshire would appear to be, with their two best bowlers, Jarvis and Sidebottom, sidelined by injury.

Lancashire against Worcestershire is my idea of the final on July 13, and you do not need a long memory to recall the last time that was the case.

ESSEX (from): G A Gooch (captain), J P Shepherdson, P J Richardson, S M Hogg, N Hogg, D R Pringle, M Hogg, M A Hogg, N A Foster, T D Tooley, S J W Andrew, P M Suck. WORCESTERSHIRE (from): P A Nettle (captain), T S Curtis, T M Moody, G A Hick, B O'Connor, I T Botham, S J Rhodes, S R Smith, P Newport, R K Bingleworth, G R Doherty, V Rutherford.

LANCASHIRE (from): G D Mendis, G Fowler, M A Atherton, N H Fairbrother, M Westwood, W M Almon, P A J DeFreitas, D W Hughes (captain), W R Hogg, D Austin, P C Smith, J R Hogg, M D Memon (captain), A A Memon, D Byers, R J Sharpe, P E Rempell, S O Fletcher, M A Robinson, C S Pickett, D Gough.

Gooch's batting is transformed

WHEN Graham Gooch began his term as England Test captain in August 1988, for the first match of the series already lost to West Indies, his average as a Test batsman was an unremarkable 37.71 (Ted Corbett writes).

He had already given up the captaincy of Essex because he felt it affected his form as a batsman and the following year against Australia he was to drop out of the England side because his flow of runs had dried up.

Yet today his batting has undergone a transformation. His overall Test average has now reached 43.20 and his 15 Tests as captain have given him a figure of 74.22 from 2,004 runs, including six centuries and ten fifties.

Those runs have shot sent him to the top of the Coopers & Lysons World ratings and made him the England captain — out of a total of 69 since 1877 — with the highest average in his period in charge. John Edrich managed an average of 83 in his only Test as captain — with one not-out innings — but the Edrich performance is an oddity.

The improvement in Gooch's batting statistics have caused a stir in the Essex dressing room. Neil Foster, their first medium bowler, says that it is of special

interest to them because of Gooch's decision to stand down after one season as their captain. "The captaincy of England seems to be an inspiration," he said.

Below are the comparative performances of England captains in a minimum of 10 Tests since 1975.

A W GREGG Tests 11 NO HS R Avg 100 50 C 14 21 1 118 913 30.8 2 5 T 14 21 1 118 913 30.8 2 5

J M BREARLEY Tests 51 52 3 81 1106 22.48 7 7 T 39 55 3 81 1106 22.48 7 7

I T BOTHAM Tests 12 21 0 57 276 13.14 1 1 T 12 21 0 57 276 13.14 1 1

R G D WILLES Tests 18 28 10 26 218 12.00 1 1 T 18 28 10 26 218 12.00 1 1

D GONCHER Tests 22 35 3 215 2267 43.59 6 9 T 22 35 3 215 2267 43.59 6 9

M W GATTING Tests 23 38 4 189 1542 44.05 5 8 T 23 38 4 189 1542 44.05 5 8

G A GOOCH Tests 15 29 2 333 2004 74.22 6 10 T 15 29 2 333 2004 74.22 6 10

C performance as captain; P performance as a player; T performance in all Tests.

Durham on the mark as rain halts play

By JACK BAILEY

HARROGATE: Durham beat Leicestershire by two hits to one in a bowling contest

THIS Tilsen Trophy semi-final was rain-affected for the sixth year in its 16 years of existence. The match itself, limited to 33 overs a side and then abandoned, with Leicestershire having lost two early wickets in reply to Durham's 163 for four, was titled Durham's way.

It was reasonable justice, therefore, that Ijaz Ahmed, Durham's Pakistan Test player, should break the deadlock produced by a bowling contest at one stump. He did so with the 78th ball of a contest in which all the players took part and the stumps was hit three times in all — twice by Durham.

So Durham go through to Thursday's final against the winners of the match between Warwickshire and Surrey today. On yesterday's evidence, they have the players and the enthusiasm to go all the way here, weather permitting.

Had there been a man of the match, it would undoubtedly have been Phil Bainbridge. The former Gloucestershire player batted outstandingly in scoring

his undefeated 48 from 43 balls and would have slipped past Geoff Cook by virtue of some equally fine bowling.

There was much to admire, too, in the innings of 43 by the new, lean and hungry Cook, and the promise of young Darren Blenkinsop, son of Warwickshire's Bill, who put on 54 with Bainbridge.

LEICESTERSHIRE Total (4 wickets, 33 overs) 163 T J Broom (captain), J W Wood, J A R Fothergill, P A W Headingley and A C Day did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-30, 3-74, 4-109. BOWLING: Leicestershire 1-0-27-1; Leicestershire 5-0-38-0; Wicketless 7-1-37-1; Wicketless 0-3-0; Benson 2-0-10-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE T J Broom (captain), J W Wood, J A R Fothergill, P A W Headingley and A C Day did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-30, 3-74, 4-109. BOWLING: Wicketless 7-1-37-1; Wicketless 0-3-0; Benson 2-0-10-0.

Champions plan a surprise

MINOR COUNTIES REVIEW BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

WITH two reservations, David Surridge, the Hertfordshire captain, is delighted by his team's match-winning displays in the Minor Counties championship and Holt Cup so far this season.

The former Gloucestershire fast bowler said: "We have done well but I was disappointed to miss the first four games through an ankle ligament injury and by our failure to split Lincolnshire's last pair with the

final 27 balls of the championship match."

Hertfordshire, the champions, have already beaten Durham and eliminated Berkshire and Buckinghamshire from the Holt Cup to qualify for the quarter-final against Norfolk at Hitchin on June 16.

"People have talked about our achieving a cup and championship double this season," Surridge said, "but what we

would especially like is to beat Derbyshire in the NatWest Trophy later this month at Bishop's Cleeve."

Hertfordshire have an experienced team attack in Surridge, Bill Merry, formerly of Middlesex, Gordon Harris and Peter Waterman, while John Carr, previously with Middlesex, flourished with innings of 148 not out and 62 against Lincolnshire on the same day.

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Qualification: 5 completed innings, avg 54.40

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
H Marris	9	15	4	910	189	82.72	3	5
T M Moody	7	11	2	692	181	80.25	3	5
Salim Malik	8	12	1	842	215	75.54	3	1
D V Lawrence	6	11	1	738	188	73.50	2	5
B C Broad	7	12	2	700	159	66.67	2	5
A P Wells	7	8	2	478	139	64.52	2	1
M P Maynard	7	8	2	478	139	64.52	2	1
C L Smith	7	12	2	673	162	67.20	2	3
R I Alderson	6	13	0	672	203	67.37	4	2
P J Richardson	6	12	5	457	150	62.28	1	3
G A Gooch	6	8	1	538	131	62.00	1	3
D W Hughes	6	8	2	387	154	61.16	1	3
G J Turner	6	8	3	365	104	60.83	1	1
M R Benson	6	9	0	478	96	59.50	1	1
R I Alderson	6	13	0	751	257	57.76	3	1
N Hussain	6	11	3	480	101	57.60	1	1
D J Blenkinsop	6	8	3	352	72	55.33	1	1
G Fowler	7	11	1	548	143	54.40	2	1
M W Gatting	7	13	2	609	113	54.40	2	1

Qualification: 20 wickets, avg 32.95

Qualification	20 wickets	avg	32.95
	O	M	R
A A Donald	177	38	484
Wagdy Youssef	125	26	357
D V Lawrence	106	25	371
P A J DeFreitas	134	25	407
O K Mortenson	180	47	535
S L Watkins	237	66	774
R M Pollard	262	72	819
R L Gibson	198	52	644
T D Topple	209	52	644
A C S Piggott	178	54	710
J E Emburey	367	128	740
R Frost	292	54	694
B C DeSilva	327	95	795
T A Marsh	291	95	707
J G Thomas	173	41	640
R A Piek	195	53	640
Wassim Alkham	233	58	822
T A Agnew	273	52	692
T A Munton	272	66	692

هذه امانة الاصل

McGraw-Hill, Encouraged

2: Warwickshire Cup (Cirencester, 3.0);
 Windsor Cup (Guards, Windsor, 3.0);
 FT FOR DISABLED: National Wheel-
 Games (Stoke Mandeville).
 NIS: Stello Artols grass court
 partnerships (Queen's Club); Dow Classic

Selectors face tricky decisions before Lord's Test

England know the need to make changes

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

MICKY Stewart, the England team manager, was basking in the sunshine of his Surrey garden yesterday as he discussed the victory which has cheered a nation. He was not, however, basking in the reflected glory complacently enough to promise that the same players can repeat the result, nor even that they will be granted the chance.

A reflex reaction to beating West Indies so emphatically is that the selectors have finally struck gold and that their next meeting will involve nothing more than slapping a few sacks, raising a few glasses and giving routine approval to the chairman's proposal of "same again, chaps". Perversely, however, the overwhelming success of their Leeds battle plan will ensure protracted agonising and painful decisions when Stewart, Ted Dexter and Graham Gooch convene tomorrow.

If they do come up with the same eleven for next week's second Cornhill Test at Lord's they will stand accused of allowing personal pleasure and national acclaim to obliterate pragmatic judgment. That they have no intention of making such an error was indicated by Stewart yesterday. "We picked people specifically for Headingley and they did a very good job," he said. "It does not follow that the same thinking will apply for another ground."

Hard though it is, at least one and possibly two of the heroes of Headingley are going to find themselves returned to more mundane surroundings where, inevitably, their egos will be flattered by innumerable outraged supporters assuring them that the selectors have no memory, no heart and no common sense.

The result of a cricket match often produces irrational extremes. Lose, and one never has to go far to hear some "sack the lot" proponent. Win, especially in such momentous drama as Monday created, and the team becomes to many eyes inviolate. In reality, the second reaction is as misguided as the first for in cricket, more than in any other sport, teams should be chosen for particular conditions as much as for individual class.

This may not be to the taste of some of the folk who began to flood the Lord's switchboard in the moment that Michael Atherton plunged for the match-winning catch on Monday afternoon and were still at it 24 hours later. Doubtless, the majority would like to be present at HQ next week to see the same conquering heroes give the cricketing equivalent of a lap of honour.

Most have already been disappointed. The first three days are sold out and the only tickets left for Sunday are discouragingly marked "partially obscured viewing". These, too, will not last long, such is the post-victory fervour. Inside the first two days at Lord's, Headingley's pathetic total attendance of 50,000 and receipts of £580,000 will be eclipsed.

The duty of the selectors is to divorce themselves from such considerations and choose a team to suit Lord's. This will mean not only including a spin bowler in the twelve but in the final eleven. It should also require an attacking spin bowler, hence Philip Tufnell, who has taken six wickets twice in the past week, replacing Richard Illingworth.

If that one is relatively

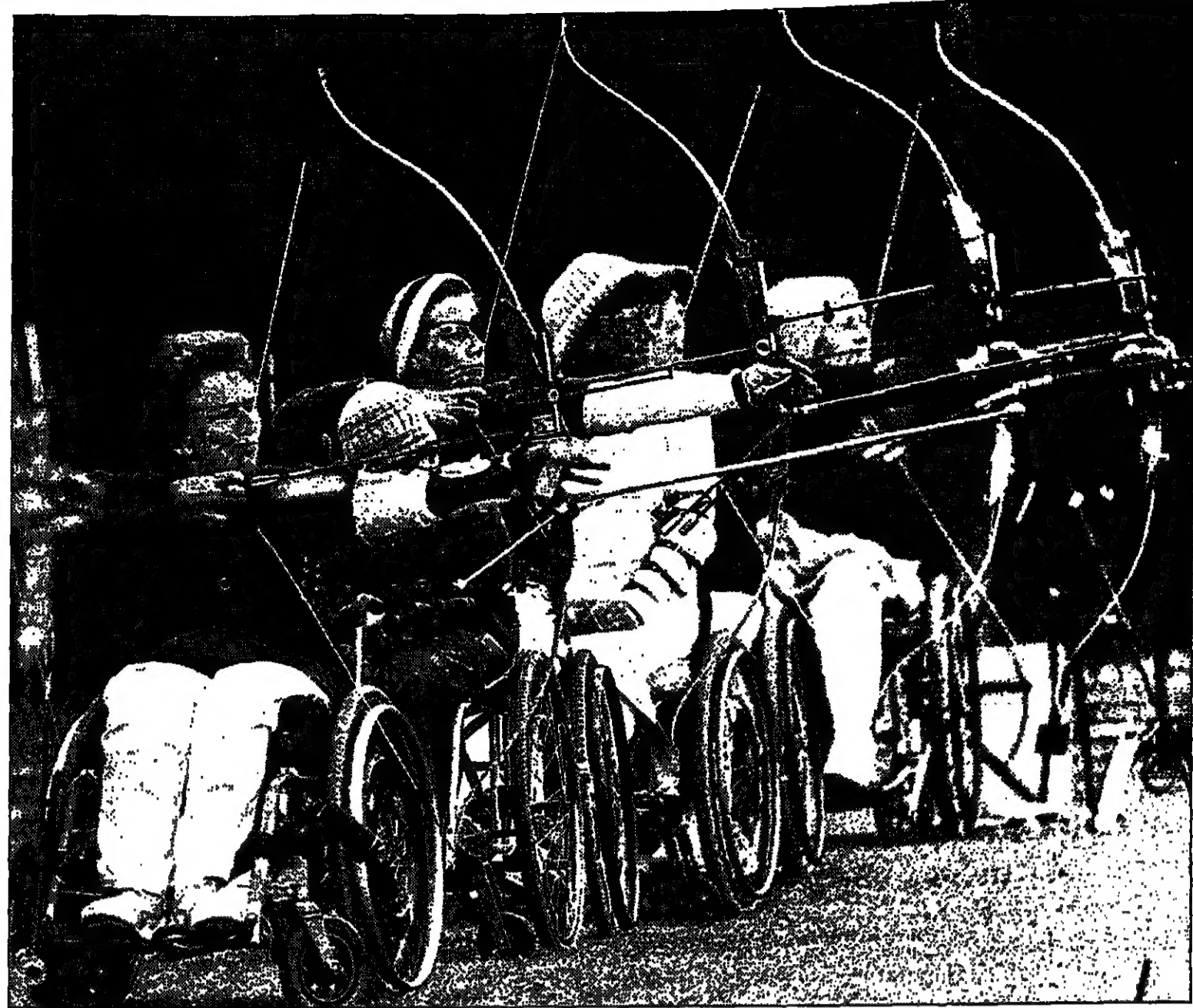
painless because Illingworth did not finally play at Leeds, it will be nothing like as easy to file either Derek Pringle or Steve Watkin, and possibly both, in the pending tray.

Pringle did everything asked of him on a ground where he is invariably picked for a specific job. That job does not exist at Lord's, where Micky Hunt's pitch is most unlikely to promote the sideways movement which prevailed throughout five days at Leeds, so a classic act is demanded for which Botham, fitness restored, would be ideal. The case for Pringle's retention can only be as an accurate stock bowler if Malcolm's present waywardness is thought sufficiently alarming.

Watkin was originally summoned to Headingley as cover for Pringle but played because Lewis, who cannot be considered again until his fragile system has proved itself more resilient, fell ill. Then, of course, he took five top-order wickets and, on Monday, bowled the pivotal spell. My view is that he should remain in the squad but not necessarily to play.

Although Messrs Atherton, Hick and Lamb at No. 2, 3 and 4 mustered a match aggregate of 31 runs, none can be at risk of immediate rejection, although if Botham is chosen at No. 6 and Pringle No. 7, one batsman will ultimately have to stand down. Whoever that is, it should not be Ramnath, so composed at No. 5 on his debut that he must remain there on his home ground. Barring experiments can come later, for things will not always look so rosy in Micky Stewart's garden.

Cup preview, page 38



Taking aim: competitors in the women's archery prepare to loose a fusillade of arrows at the National Wheelchair Games yesterday

Newton keeps the bull's-eye in sights

By JANE WYATT

KAREN Newton retained her lead, with 1,030 points, after the second day of the women's archery competition at the National Wheelchair Games at Aylesbury. Joan Cooper, however, closed the gap by moving to 1,007 points. Sandy Gregory shot a score of 1,060 in the men's competition, with fellow international, Patsy Bell, chasing him on 1,014.

The basketball event is living up to its promise, with two matches reflecting the high standard of competition in Britain.

In the first match, between the home side, LGS Jets, and Telford Celtics, the Jets forward, Steve Brown, scored ten points in the first half to help take his team into a slim two-point lead by half-time. At the start of the second half, the Jets pulled away and looked unassailable until the former Great

Britain captain, Phil Craven, hit three baskets to pull Telford back to within two points. A last-minute cross by the Jets international, Ray Cross, enabled his team to clinch a narrow 48-46 victory.

Capital City Jazz, from London, and Team Thistle, from Edinburgh, were combatants in the other outstanding match. The Thistle defence was able to hold Jazz in check during the

first half, while Paul McGinty and Steve McGarry between them scored 19 first-half points for Thistle. At the start of the second half, Jazz led 25-21, then McGinty scored four unanswered points to level the score.

In return, Steve Caine put his recent experience of playing in the United States with a Kentucky side to good effect by scoring eight points for Jazz, with Mark Tong

adding four more. Thistle kept up the pressure, though, to pursue their opponents to a thrilling conclusion with Jazz holding on to win 49-40.

In the bowls competition, the most surprising result was the defeat of No. 4 seed, John Gronow, knocked out by George Shepherd 21-13. Tom McCarthy, a first-time qualifier, lost in the closest match of the second round to Jim Sellar 21-18.

Ban is lifted temporarily

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BUTCH Reynolds, the 400 metres world record holder suspended for two years for failing a drugs test, has been declared eligible for the United States trials for the world championships which begin today. Reynolds was suspended last November on the basis of samples taken last

August at a meeting in Monte Carlo.

In judgment which casts a shadow over the drug-testing procedures operated by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, an arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association announced the temporary lifting of the

suspension. Under American law that makes him eligible for the trials, but he remains suspended by the IAAF.

Richard Gombert, the arbitrator, said that evidence showed that the separated urine samples, which allegedly contained traces of anabolic steroid, did not come from the same man.

"There is substantial evidence that neither the A sample or B sample emanated from the claimant," he added.

Reynolds, aged 27, is suing TAC for \$12.5 million in damages and is seeking permanent reinstatement. He also has appealed against the IAAF suspension. He said he would run in the trials but acknowledged that his chances of reaching the world championships were slim. "I haven't done any track work," he said.

If, after discussions with TAC, the IAAF is satisfied with the arbitration association's verdict, the mystery to be solved is how the error occurred. IAAF rules dictate that an athlete signs to say forms to say he or she is satisfied that the correct procedures have been carried out. The "chain of custody" for testing had been adhered to at the meeting in Monte Carlo, an IAAF spokesman said.

Norman rejoins European Tour

From MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

CHASKA, MINNESOTA

GREG Norman provided European golf with a wonderful compliment when he revealed during practice for the US Open, which starts here tomorrow, that he has rejoined the Tour.

The Australian, who has based himself in the United States since 1984, has paid the \$200 entry fee so that he can have the option of competing in Europe.

"I'm not saying how many tournaments I'm going to play," Norman said. "But I've not joined just to give them the money. I've talked it through with Bruce Edwards, my caddy, and I like the idea of going back to play."

"The best time of my career was when I was playing in Europe. I built some firm friendships which lasted. There is a lot of nonsense going on over here at the moment. When I walk into a locker room over here I can feel the chill come into the atmosphere — the envy and the jealousy that is directed at me."

Ian Woosnam, who stayed at Norman's home in Florida before winning the Masters, said: "It would be great to

have Greg back. He would obviously be a real asset to the Tour."

There is no question that Norman would benefit by playing in Europe where the prize fund has swelled from \$2.8 million to £20 million since he last played regularly in 1984 and financial inducements are paid to top players.

Norman would also be attracted by the opportunity of playing on courses with greater variety as he attempts to add to the one major championship — the Open in 1986 — that he has won.

"I've been enjoying this year because I've been back home, taken a long break and played less golf," he said. "I'm not the centre of attraction right now and that's fine. But I want to get back there."

Severiano Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle, who hopes today to be reunited with his clubs which were left behind at Warwick, all honed their games on the practice range, with help from David Leadbetter.

Drama at Pannal, page 39

Branfoot and Porterfield take first-division jobs

By CLIVE WHITE AND DENNIS SIGBY

IAN Branfoot, who left Southampton eight years ago because "I couldn't see myself succeeding," returned to The Dell yesterday as the surprise successor to Chris Nicholl, who was dismissed as manager two weeks ago.

It is an appointment more in keeping with the Southampton tradition and Branfoot, like Nicholl, is a previous employee of five years' standing. He has been given a three-year contract.

First-team coach at Crystal Palace for the past 18 months, he admitted to being surprised

at his appointment, but less so when considering how well-known he was at the club.

Branfoot led Southampton's reserves to the Football Combination title in 1980-1.

Guy Ashkan, the chairman, has promised to put "reasonable funds" at the disposal of Branfoot for new players. "My ambition is to win the European Cup," Branfoot said. "But then that was my ambition at Reading."

Branfoot led Reading from the fourth division to the second, winning the third-division championship after a

record start to the season of 13 consecutive victories.

Ian Porterfield, who succeeded Branfoot at Reading and was dismissed by them in April, was yesterday appointed the manager of Chelsea on a three-year contract. Porterfield spent 15 months at Stamford Bridge as assistant manager to Bobby Campbell before moving to Reading in November 1989.

Porterfield, aged 45, formerly manager at Aberdeen, Sheffield United and Rotherham United, called Chelsea a "sleeping giant" when he became Campbell's No. 2 in August 1988; the pair took the club to the second-division championship and the top of the first division when Porterfield moved on.

Campbell, the man he replaces, is now the personal assistant to Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman.

Peter Schmeichel, aged 27, the Danish international goalkeeper, is to join Manchester United from Brondby in a transfer that is expected to be worth £750,000. Schmeichel has played 40 times for Denmark.



Branfoot: back at The Dell



Porterfield: Chelsea's choice

More football, page 39

Leading clubs ready to serve notice on League

DAVID MILLER

SO WEARY, and irritated, are the leading first division clubs by the defensive procrastination of the Football League that, when the clubs meet the FA tomorrow, they may decide to give the League what they perceive as a three years notice of withdrawal. "We've had enough," was the common voice of three of the big five with whom I spoke yesterday.

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive whose projected Premier League is being legally challenged by a frantic Football League swimming against the tide, believes the majority of the first division may be eager, willing, or persuaded to resign. This would leave the Football League in an untenable position.

With mass resignations,

rate of bus tickets, in reality they are far from influencing the outcome. But last week's PFA bulletin is an irrelevant piece of opportunist power seeking.

Atkins, in the past 48 hours, has sought to distance himself from responsibility for the blueprint's launch or content, and from any idea that he instructed a trade union leader to be arbiter between the national association and the game's leading employer.

The perception that Taylor, a pleasant and earnest players' representative, is some kind of one-man Acaas, is without foundation. His letter to Kelly, accompanying the blueprint, was a gross impertinence, while the blueprint — with its tripartite power base of FA, League and PFA, and the specific preservation of

four full time professional League divisions — reveals a lack of understanding of the necessary relationship between the FA and Fila, and also of the present mood of not just five big clubs but the majority of the first division.

Atkins admits that football's solution must be self-determined, and stresses that his concern is an end to the controversy.

It will become him to enjoy after-dinner jokes at the expense of his immediate predecessor, an intellectual Olympian by comparison, and Taylor's presumption as arbiter has left both him and Atkins looking foolish.

The first division clubs are waiting to see tomorrow how strong is the FA's will. My information is that the FA has

received legal advice that its regulations can withstand the Football League's challenge.

The nub of the League's resistance is its three-year resignation clause, Rule 10, introduced in a panic four years ago to prevent the creation of a Super League. FA Regulation 24 states that the deadline for withdrawal notice from any league is December 31 during any season for the following season; additionally, FA regulations give them precedence over affiliated league regulations.

The Football League may seek to test this legally — and very expensively — but that will become unnecessary if the leading clubs resign under the three-year rule.

In a test of moral and commercial strength, the FA and the leading clubs cannot

lose, though it is important tomorrow that Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, is pushing the same way as his chief executive; a matter that cannot be guaranteed.

An irony of the so-called PFA Blueprint is that on the day of the Argentina match at Wembley, May 25, Taylor had agreed with Kelly on the PFA's financial share from the proposed Premier League; protection of pensions, of the lower divisions, and of existing sponsorship deals. Taylor, by this date, must already have been hatching his Atkins-prompted blueprint. The episode leaves the minister and the PFA looking singularly silly.

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